

January 12, 1978

Dear Ministers, delegates, and district officers,

The February district conference in Hartford is fast approaching. There are several important items of business to be transacted:

I. ELECTIONS

- A. A lay delegate to sit on the Board of Home Missions will be chosen. It is my hope that whoever is elected to this position might actively seek lay input from the various church groups by maintaining contact with lay delegates both during and between conferences. It is my further hope that churches will seek to send the same lay delegates to conferences so that lay people might become better known to each other as well as the clergy from other churches. The rapid turn-over among lay delegates effectively keeps district affairs dominated by clergy--a situation, I believe, that pleases the clergy no more than the lay people.
- B. Other district positions included in your list from our nominating committee. If you have not already responded to Marge's request (on behalf of the nominating committee) for the names of qualified people, please do so right away.

- II. THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET-- the district treasurer and I are enclosing a proposed budget based on the best information we have at the time. If there are serious commissions or disagreements, please try to notify me of them prior to the conference, so I can let others know what issues might be coming up for discussion or debate. You will note that the proposed budget includes no stipend for either the district coordinator or the assistant district coordinator. This is in part due to the fact that we are a smaller district, therefore requiring (hopefully) a less-crushing time demand on your officers, but principally due to the fact that when other district essentials are provided for, there is no money left. If the income projections prove unduly conservative or the projected expenses grossly inflated, at some future conference we might propose some modest stipend. We did not include in this proposed budget those special funds whose income and expenditures do not come out of district tithes and offerings. These funds, however, will be listed in the treasurer's report and discussed at the business meeting.

III. PROCEDURAL AND FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Since all financial issues were tabled to this conference, various resolutions will be made to establish the procedures by which the new Northeast District will operate.

In most cases we will simply propose the adoption of the old Northeast District's procedures. However, any proposed changes in procedure would be in order if anyone so desires. Procedural questions to be voted upon include:

- A. Escrow (that fund spent at the discretion of the Board of Home Missions)--20% of district tithes and offerings.
- B. Task Force on Women's fund
- C. Task Force on Racism's Scholarship Fund
- D. Gay Christian Fund
- E. Prison Ministry Fund (move to merge with working fund)
- F. Retroactive Re-embursement of district expenses between conferences.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Guidelines for host church and district in financing conferences.
- B. Guidelines for billing district for district expenses
- C. Recommendation for division of New Jersey
- D. Status of Mother Eagle Review as "official" district publication.

There are very likely other agenda items which have not yet come to my attention. If you are aware of any please contact me prior to the conference.

Groups presently to be granted meeting time and space during the conference are: Task Force on Women, Task Force on Men, Task Force on Racism, Prison Ministry, Minister's Spouse Association. If your group wants time and space and is not among the preceding, please let me know prior to the conference.

District tithe checks and forms are to be sent to Gloria Audet, Buteau Road, Leicester, Mass. 01524. Please keep your tithes current. Our district is now half the old size with less than half the old money.

As a new district with new officers, there will no doubt be some slips and slights unintended in carrying on our district affairs. Please let Shelley, Bruce, Gloria, or me know if we are overlooking any of our responsibilities. Feel free to suggest to us ways to perform our tasks more effectively. Also tell us when we are doing things well!

I'm happy to report that the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson will be with us at the conference and visiting among district churches for two weeks around the conference.

I look forward to seeing you all soon,

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Edward T. Hougen

PROPOSED NORTHEAST DISTRICT BUDGET
1978

<u>ESTIMATED INCOME</u>	<u>YEARLY</u>	<u>MONTHLY</u>
District Tithes	\$1600.	\$133.
Conference Offerings	300.	25.
TOTAL	\$1900	\$158

<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Escrow	\$360	\$30
Innovative Ministries	300	25
Mailing & Printing	60	5
Telephone	600	50
Travel & Lodging	480	40
Washington Office	100	8
TOTAL	\$1900	\$158

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (NEW) BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, October 1, 1977 - 3:50-4:50 p.m.

MCC New York Sanctuary, New York, NY

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Shelley Hamilton, outgoing assistant district coordinator of the old Northeast District, who chaired until a district coordinator was elected for the new district. Jay Friend served as acting secretary until a secretary was elected.

A. Delegates Seated

From MCC Boston.....	Rev. Edward Hougen.....	Ms. Jean Gralley
	Rev. Marge Ragona	
From A/O MCC Brooklyn.....	Rev. Dee Jackson.....	Mr. Bruce Gerig
From MCC Hartford.....	Rev. Jay Deacon.....	Ms. Kitty Blissit
From MCC Hispana.....	Rev. Jose Mojica.....	Mr. Angel Hernandez
From MCC New York.....	Rev. Gilbert Lincoln.....	Mr. Hugh Bruce
	Rev. Shelley Hamilton	Mr. Phil Eberle
	Rev. Jim Beers	Mr. Bob Molle
	Rev. Michael Nordstrom	
	Rev. Karen Ziegler	
From MCC Providence.....	Rev. Steve LaFever.....	Mr. Billy Mencer
From MCC Syracuse.....	Mr. Bob Freeman-Jones.....	--
From MCC Worcester.....	--	Ms. Joby Vick

B. New Business1. Election of New Northeast District Officers

- a. District Coordinator - Rev. Shelley Hamilton and Rev. Edward Hougen were nominated. Rev. Hougen was elected by a vote of Hamilton-6, Hougen-13, abstention-1.
- b. Assitant District Coordinator - Rev. Shelley Hamilton was nominated and elected unanimously.
- c. Secretary - Mr. Bruce Gerig and Ms. Jean Gralley were nominated. Ms. Gralley declined the nomination. Mr. Gerig was elected unanimously and Mr. Bill Smith replaced Mr. Gerig as voting lay delegate from Alpha and Omega MCC.
- d. Treasurer - Ms. Gloria Audet (an exhorter from MCC Hartford serving with MCC Worcester) and Mr. Steve Pierce (from MCC Boston) were nominated. Ms. Audet was elected by a vote of Audet-17, Pierce-4.

2. Financial Support for NE District Innovative Ministries - Rev. Nordstrom asked what district funds might be available for this work. (A stipend of \$25/month had been provided to him in the past as director of this ministry.) The chair recommended that this matter be tabled until the next district business meeting, since the financial situation of the new district is not yet known. Ms. Nancy Avard, outgoing NE District treasurer, reported that this figure would not be available until her books were closed on October 15, 1977.

3. Chairperson of District Prison Ministries - The chair recommended that Mr. Freeman-Jones continue as chairperson, and this motion was passed unanimously.

4. District Finances - The chair motioned that all financial considerations be tabled until the next district business meeting and that any current expenses that have to be outlayed be submitted at that time for reimbursement retrospectively. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Photographing of the Business Meeting - Rev. Lincoln announced that a photographer from New York University had come in who wanted to take some photographs. The chair suggested that perhaps those who did not wish to be photographed might sit to the chair's right and asked if there were any objections (none were voiced). A motion of approval for the photographs to be taken was passed unanimously.
6. Report on District Innovative Ministries - Mr. Smith asked if Rev. Nordstrom could give a report on this ministry at the next district business meeting, and the chair replied that he would ask Rev. Nordstrom if this could be done.
7. Greetings from Rev. Troy Perry - Rev. Perry gave warm greetings to the conference delegates and friends and invited them to the evening service at which he would preaching.
8. Filling of Other District Posts
 - a. The chair recommended that persons already serving in district posts be asked to continue if they are willing to do so, and no objection was raised.
 - b. UFMCC Commission on Government, Structures and Systems - Rev Deacon has been serving as district clergy delegate and Ms. Gralley as district lay delegate. Both said they were willing to continue serving and their names were accepted unanimously. For alternate lay delegate, Ms. Lupe Martinez (from Alpha and Omega MCC) was nominated and elected unanimously.
 - c. UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries - One delegate asked what the relationship was between this and the district prison ministries, and no one knew. It was not known if anyone was presently serving as district representative for the UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. The chair asked Mr. Freeman-Jones if he would be interested in serving in this post, but he declined.
 - d. Motion for a Nominating Committee - The chair asked if the delegates would like for it to present nominations for the rest of the posts, at the next district business meeting. Mr. Gerig spoke in favor of encouraging more lay person participation in decision-making in the district and offered a motion that a nominating committee of three clergy and three lay people be elected from the floor to prepare a slate of nominees for the posts that need to be filled, for presentation at the next district business meeting. He asked the chair if such a slate would be open for additional nominations at that meeting, and the chair agreed that this would be the case. Rev. Ragona suggested that 2 clergy and 2 lay persons be elected instead of three each, and this amendment was accepted by Mr. Gerig. The motion to elect this nominating committee was passed, with 10 ayes, 6 nays, 1 abstention.
 - e. Election of a Nominating Committee - Rev. Ragona and Rev. Beers were nominated for the clergy members and were elected by 13 ayes, 5 nays. Mr. Jerry Cunningham, Mr. Bill Smith and Mr. Fred Bradford were nominated to serve as lay members; and Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Smith were elected by a vote of Cunningham-15, Smith-14, Bradford-10 (delegates voted for two persons each).
 - f. Other District Posts That Might Need To Be Filled
 - i. UFMCC Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order - The district delegate to this commission is appointed by the Board of Elders and is not elected or appointed from within the district.
 - ii. UFMCC Financial Advisory Board - Rev. Lincoln now serves as clergy representative and Ms. Audet as lay representative. Ms. Audet said she did not wish to continue serving. (This post is then referred to the nominating committee.)
 - iii. UFMCC Task Force on Women - The district women were asked to elect a representative in caucus following this business meeting.
 - iv. UFMCC Task Force on Men - The district men were asked to elect a representative in caucus following this business meeting.

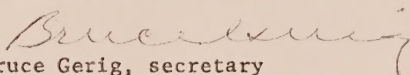


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- v. NE District Board of Home Missions - A lay representative needs to be elected. Rev. Lincoln made a motion that this representative not be on the slate to be drawn up by the nominating committee, and this motion passed with 9 ayes and 5 nays. Rev. Ragona offered a motion asking that action on this matter be tabled until the next district business meeting so that inquiries could be made in the local churches as to who might be available to serve. Rev. Lincoln objected to the chair's acceptance of this motion and asked that its acceptance be decided by the floor; and the vote to sustain the chair's acceptance of the motion was passed by 13 ayes, 4 nays. The vote on the motion to wait until the next district business meeting to elect this lay representative was passed by 15 ayes, 5 nays.
9. Next Northeast District Conference and Business Meeting - Mr. Smith announced that MCC Hartford had offered to host the next conference, perhaps sometime in February, 1978. There was some discussion of dates, and Rev. Lincoln said that he would prefer that it not be during Lent. Since Ash Wednesday falls on February 8, it was suggested that the dates for the next conference be the weekend of February 3-4. This motion was acceptable to Rev. Deacon and MCC Hartford and was passed by the delegates unanimously.
10. Financial Support for the UFMCC Field Office in Washington, D.C. - Mr. Adam DeBaugh, UFMCC Social Action Director, reported that General Conference had only allocated \$50/month to his office for printing, expenses, etc., and that it was necessary therefore to raise additional funds for this ministry. He asked if our district could help. Because of lack of funds, for example, his office has had to fall behind in the printing of Gays on the Hill. The chair asked if this could be tabled until the next district business meeting, along with other financial matters, because of the recent restructuring of the district. Mr. DeBaugh said he would send the chair a letter with more information on this.
11. MCC Syracuse Anniversary - Mr. Freeman-Jones announced that on December 3, 1977, MCC Syracuse would be one year old; and he invited everyone to come up to celebrate with them that weekend. Fliers are available giving further information.
12. Change of Ministers at MCC Providence - A motion was offered that an applause of praise be given to Rev. LaFever who would be leaving MCC Providence and of welcome be given to Rev. Ragona who will be assuming the pulpit there November 1. The motion was passed unanimously and a loud applause was given.
13. Rev. LaFever made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, secretary

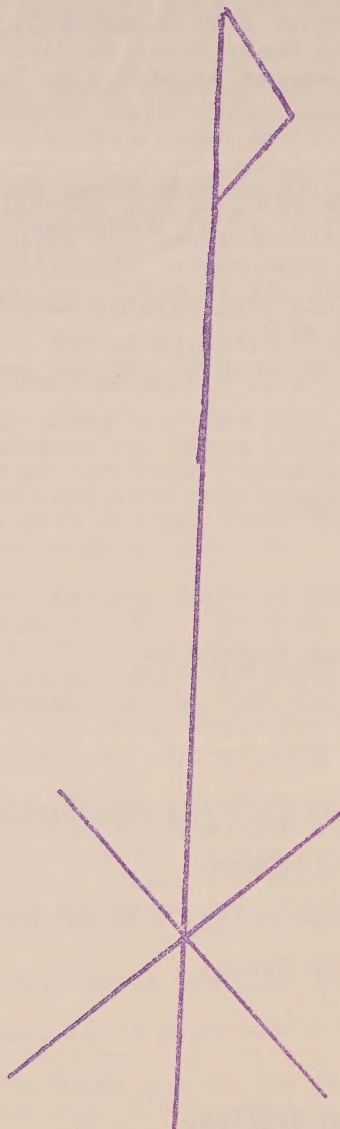
Ms. Bradley

North-East District Conference

May 1977

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Northeast District, UFMCC
District Conference

May 20-22, 1977

The General Assembly of the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was called into special session at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 1977, at First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., for the purpose of deciding whether to hold the regular quarterly business meeting immediately or on Sunday as previously scheduled. Rev. Howard Gaass, district coordinator, presided. It was moved that the business meeting be held immediately. The motion failed on a 10-14-2 vote. Rev. Don Borbe moved to discuss important business as time permitted before supper at 5:30 p.m. The motion was 10, the meeting was adjourned.

* * *

The General Assembly of the Northeast District, UFMCC, was called to order at 12:40 p.m., Sunday, May 22, 1977, at First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn. Rev. Gaass presided.

The roll was called and the following ministers, worship coordinators, lay delegates and observers were present:

Washington: Rev. Roy Birchard; delegates Ester Smith* and Art Runyan*.

Baltimore: delegate Joe Scott.

Philadelphia: Rev. Borbe; delegate Bill Hower.

State College:

Harrisburg:

Pittsburgh: Rev. Frank Scott; delegate Joe Houle.

Asbury Park: Rev. Jim Beers.

Syracuse: observer Bob Freeman-Jones.

New York: Rev. Gil Lincoln; delegates Chet Snow and John Milne.

Hispana: Rev. Jose Mojica; delegate Hiram Putzan.

Alpha and Omega-Brooklyn: Rev. Dee Jackson; delegate Bruce Gerig.

Hartford: Rev. Jay Deacon; delegate Warren Bacon.

Providence: delegate Kenneth Barr.

Worcester: delegate Gloria Audet*.

Boston: Rev. Edward Hougens; delegate Jean Gralley.

District Officers: Rev. Gaass; Jim Wannamaker, secretary; Nancy Avaré, treasurer.

*Arrived late

Ms. Avaré gave the opening prayer.

Ms. Gralley's report centered on the Boston church's weekly visits for four months to Old South Congregational Church.

There was no report from Providence.

Barbara Smoker reported that Margaret Houghton is conducting a dynamic ministry as pastor at Worcester. She said the congregation has a drop-in center, hot-line, rap groups and is paying its back debts.

Mr. Bacon reported on Hartford's hassles with a local television station. He said the church has a Bible study, a building fund and a women's coffee house and is planning a mid-week service.

"All we've been thinking about for the last month is this conference," reported Mr. Gerig. "It's been a real joy," he added. He said Alpha and Omega-Brooklyn has been restructuring, and pushing ahead with its prison work and discussion groups. The congregation now has an office of its own.

Mr. Putzan reported that Hispana has also been restructuring and now has its own office. He also described the prayer meeting.

Mr. Snow reported that the Manhattan church raised \$3,000 for New Yorkers for Human Rights in Madison County. Rev. Malcolm Boyd preached for Human Rights Sunday and the church celebrated its fifth anniversary with representatives of the other congregations which began with MCC-New York. The church has a gender identity rap and an active women's outreach.

Mr. Freeman-Jones reported that attendance is about the same at Syracuse but that the same faces are at services more and more often. He said the congregation has a monthly pot-luck supper and monthly discussions after the services. The congregation raised \$600 at a fundraiser for the Dade County campaign. The congregation is helping plan a Gay Pride Field Day on June 18 and an open picnic with an ecumenical worship service to follow.

Rev. Borbe reported that there is a marvelous spiritual renewal going on in Philadelphia and his personal excitement in his ministry. He described the debate between Karen Zeigler, Rev. Deacon and Madeline Murray O'Hair and said, "Atheists in our community have new doubts." He also discussed his participation in a panel with leaders of the Unification Church. Charlie Fredrickson reported on the lesbian spirituality workshop, the stadium outing and the bar benefit. He noted that Rev. Borbe had been in Philadelphia for two years.

Rev. Scott reported that the Pittsburgh church suffered a slump after hosting a district conference, being chartered and staging the show Markings all in the same weekend. He said the church has a women's rap, the beginnings of a children's worship, a deacon and ministerial candidates training program, and is recouping from the slump.

Mr. Scott reported that attendance and finances are up in Baltimore since the arrival of Rev. Stan Harris. The church has mid-week services, a deacon-leadership training program, more women and blacks attending and a Parents of Gays group.

Mr. Runyan reported that many programs at Washington are in holding as the search for a new pastor continues. He said the church is close to budget, is taking a monthly offering for downtown ministries, has a children's ministry and is chartering a bus to Denver for General Conference.

It was decided to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Feb. 20, 1977, meeting. Rev. Hougren noted that the eighth paragraph of the third page of the Feb. 20 minutes should have specified that no member of the council's board of directors voted for the application. Rev. Lincoln moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Rev. Hougren seconded. All of the votes were ayes.

Rev. Lincoln asked that mail for MCC-New York be sent to the church at 201 West 13th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Ms. Avarad presented the treasurer's report, noting that tithes are down, resulting in less income for the district. She recommended returning the district coordinator's stipend to \$100 per month. Mr. Snow moved to accept the treasurer's report. All of the votes were ayes. Ms. Smith moved that the treasurer's recommendation on the stipend be accepted. Following discussion, there were three ayes, but the nays had it.

Ms. Audet moved that Worcester's back tithes be forgiven. There was one abstention, but the ayes had it.

Rev. Gaass reported that he had visited New York, Hispana, State College, Worcester, Syracuse, Baltimore, and Alpha and Omega-Brooklyn. He said Rev. Birchard plans to start a new work in Richmond, Va., in the fall and requests for churches have come from Long Island and Princeton, N.J. Rev. Gaass said Rick Weatherly of the Washington church has done a demographic study of the areas of the areas of the United States without MCCs. He found more than 100 communities--led by Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island--capable of supporting congregations. Rev. Gaass discussed the shortage of trained ministers and said it would be best to wait until more are available to start new congregations. The report was accepted.

Rev. Gaass discussed a plan to divide the Northeast into four subdistricts with an assistant district coordinator to be appointed for each. Barbara Kane, Alpha and Omega-Brooklyn alternate, moved that an ad hoc committee be established to prepare job descriptions for the district coordinator and the assistant coordinator. There were three ayes, one abstention and the majority of nays. Jim Rickettson was seated as an alternate for MCC-New York.

Rev. Scott moved to remove the election of an assistant coordinator from the table, where it was placed at the last meeting. There was one naye, but the ayes had it. Rev. Borbo, Rev. Birchard, Marge Ragona, Rev. Scott and Shelly Hamilton were nominated. Rev. Birchard and Rev. Scott declined. Mr. Bacon moved to close the nominations. All of the votes were ayes. Rev. Scott and Mr. Bacon were chosen as collectors. Ms. Hamilton was elected on the third ballot.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m. Rev. Gaass offered the closing prayer.

Prayerfully submitted,

Jim Wannamaker
Jim Wannamaker, secretary

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FOURTEENTH QUARTER

2/20/77 - 5/21/77

BALANCE ON HAND	2/20/77	\$499.49
INCOME:		
	Tithes	622.27
	Dist. Conf. Collection	150.54
	Innovative Ministry	70.00
	Mother Eagle Review	69.95
	From UFMCC	<u>42.00</u>
	Total Income	954.76
	Total Funds Available	1,454.25
EXPENSES:		
	Esrow	345.50
	Working:	
	Dist. Coord. Stipend	375.00
	M. Norstrom Stipend	75.00
	Telephone	99.08
	Print & Mail	15.05
	Service Charge	<u>13.33</u>
	Total Working	577.46
	Scholarship	142.00
	Prison Ministry	50.00
	Mother Eagle Review	65.63
	Innovative Ministry	<u>70.00</u>
	Total Expenses	1,250.59
BALANCE ON HAND	5/21/77	203.66
BALANCE BY FUND:		
	Esrow	40.42
	Working	57.38
	Scholarship	72.09
	Prison Ministry	14.85
	Women's Caucus	0.00
	Mother Eagle Review	4.32
	Gay Christian	14.60
	Innovative Ministry	<u>0.00</u>
	Total	203.66

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m. Rev. Gaass offered the closing prayer.

Prayerfully submitted,

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Rev. Borbe presented the following resolution on behalf of the district prison ministries commission:

Whereas, the Board of Institutional Ministries only directly oversees the UFMCC ministry to federal and state prisons and delegates the local pastor to oversee our ministry to local city and county prisons,

We recommend that the Board of Institutional Ministries move to include all prison ministries under its direct supervision and concern.

There were two naves and one abstention, but the ayes had it. He then presented the following resolution on behalf of the district prison ministries commission:

Whereas, there are prison inmates who desire to be identified through membership in UFMCC while in prison, and

Whereas, most prison regulations preclude our holding worship services in order to comply with the by-law requirement in Article III, Section C, No. 2,

We recommend that the by-laws be changed to allow persons in prison where worship services are not possible to become viable members in MCC with the exception of voting privileges which would be based on attendance at local congregational meetings.

There were three naves and three abstentions, but the ayes had it.

A report was presented recommending that the Gay Christian be returned to production in the district separate from In Unity as less expensive and permitting wider distribution to seminaries and church libraries. Ms. Avaré moved to authorize Rev. Heacon to pursue a study of separating the two magazines if the Gay Christian isn't allocated more than four pages within In Unity. There was one nave, but the ayes had it.

Ms. Smith moved that Alpha and Omega-Brooklyn be given a standing ovation for their hosting the conference. It was done.

Mr. Scott moved that business meetings at district conferences be held on a day other than Sunday. There were one nave and one abstention, but the ayes had it.

Mr. Scott moved that a comprehensive agenda dealing with proposed topics for the business meetings be sent to all churches, missions and study groups in the district one month before the district conference. Mr. Wannamaker moved to amend the motion to make it a tentative comprehensive agenda. All of the votes on the ^{amended} agenda were ayes. The ayes had it on the amended motion. Rev. Gaass asked that ~~it~~ ^{it} be sent to him six weeks before the conference.

Ms. Smoker offered a resolution from the ministers' spouses demanding proper recognition at future district conferences. She said the transportation, timing and location of the meeting today were poor. It was accepted.

It was decided that the district coordinator would set the site and time of the next conference. A retreat conference at a conference center lost on a straw vote.

Mr. Scott reported that attendance and finances are up in Baltimore since the arrival of Rev. Stan Harris. The church has mid-week services, a deacon-exhorter training program, more women and blacks attending and a Parents of Gays group.

Mr. Runyan reported that many programs at Washington are in holding as the search for a new pastor continues. He said the church is close to budget, is taking a monthly offering for downtown ministries, has a children's ministry and is chartering a bus to Denver for General Conference.

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District Conference

May 20-22, 1977

The General Assembly of the Northeast District of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was called into special session at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 1977, at First Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., for the purpose of deciding whether to hold the regular quarterly business meeting immediately or on Sunday as previously scheduled. Rev. Howard Gaass, district coordinator, presided. It was moved that the business meeting be held immediately. The motion failed on a 10-11-2 vote. Rev. Don Borbe moved to discuss important business as time permitted before supper at 5:30 p.m. The day was over. The meeting was adjourned.

* * *

The General Assembly of the Northeast District, UFMCC, was called to order at 12:40 p.m., Sunday, May 22, 1977, at First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn. Rev. Gaass presided.

The roll was called and the following ministers, worship coordinators, lay delegates and observers were present:

Washington: Rev. Roy Birchard; delegates Ester Smith* and Art Runyan*.

Baltimore: delegate Joe Scott.

Philadelphia: Rev. Borbe; delegate Bill Hower.

State College:

Harrisburg:

Pittsburgh: Rev. Frank Scott; delegate Joe Houle.

Asbury Park: Rev. Jim Beers.

Syracuse: observer Bob Freeman-Jones.

New York: Rev. Gil Lincoln; delegates Chet Snow and John Milne.

Hispana: Rev. Jose Mojica; delegate Hiram Putzan.

Alpha and Omega-Brooklyn: Rev. Dee Jackson; delegate Bruce Gerig.

Hartford: Rev. Jay Deacon; delegate Warren Bacon.

Providence: delegate Kenneth Barr.

Worcester: delegate Gloria Audet*.

Boston: Rev. Edward Houghton; delegate Jean Gralley.

District Officers: Rev. Gaass; Jim Wannamaker, secretary; Nancy Award, treasurer.

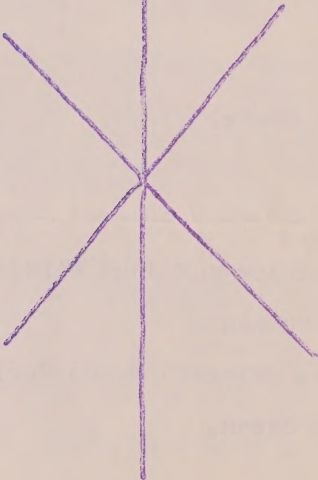
*Arrived late

Ms. Pagona

North East District Conference

May 1977

A



945 "G" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
September 21, 1977

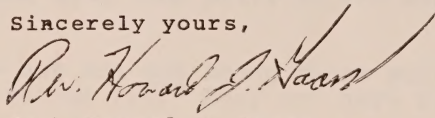
Mr. James H. Wannamaker III
District Secretary
Northeast District, UFMCC
2104 Mt. Royal Terrace
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Dear Jim,

On September 18, 1977, the members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Cincinnati extended to me a call to become their new Pastor. I feel that God has called me to assume the position of Pastor of MCC-Cincinnati, of which I have accepted. My duties will begin as of December 1, 1977.

Therefore, I hereby submit this as my resignation as District Coordinator of the Northeast District, UFMCC, effective upon the election of my successor at the District Conference of September 30 to October 2, 1977.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Howard J. Gaass

routed ✓
The Elders

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
P.O. BOX 1462
Providence, R.I. 0291

TO: All MCC Ministers in the Northeast District
ALL Delegates to the February N. E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outpouring of generosity by the Falcons Motorcycle Club, who took our children's need to heart. Instead of gifting each other at their annual Christmas party, each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, there were more. This marked a special bond between the gay men and the gay parents of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the liberty of contacting you in the name of the nominating committee elected at last District Conference. As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The Nominating Committee would like input from the various churches to help us bring a truly representative slate before the business meeting of the District. You will find a form attached that might be of help in letting you give us the information we need.

If you have an especially good candidate for a post, jot a note down as to why s/he is particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MCC, please tell us that also. It would be helpful for you to check with the people involved to see if they will accept and to include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting, should they be nominated.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Nominating Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

UFMCC Commission on Faith Fellowship & Order -- Appointed by the Board of Elders, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

UFMCC Task Force on Women -- Must be chosen by the women present at the District Conference. This post is open to both clergy and laity, and in most districts is held by a woman minister. N.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

UFMCC Task Force on Men: As above.

Lay Representative - N.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Nominating Committee is especially not empowered to bring a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about this position, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

To: All Ministers in the Providence District
Re: Delegates to the 1962 District Conference

First, let me wish you all Happy Christmas and a very New Year. Our members in Providence were especially worked by the outpouring of generosity by the Bishop's Representative Group, who took our only son home to his family. I think each of them will be able to tell you of the joy of this homecoming. I think each of them will be able to tell you of the joy of this homecoming. I think each of them will be able to tell you of the joy of this homecoming.

Now to business. I am writing the life of a minister in the Providence District. I am writing the life of a minister in the Providence District. I am writing the life of a minister in the Providence District. I am writing the life of a minister in the Providence District. I am writing the life of a minister in the Providence District.

It has been an especially good year for a minister in the Providence District. It has been an especially good year for a minister in the Providence District. It has been an especially good year for a minister in the Providence District. It has been an especially good year for a minister in the Providence District. It has been an especially good year for a minister in the Providence District.

The following positions are open -- but are not to be filled until the Providence District Conference has been held. They are now for your information only.

UNION Commission on the 1962 Conference -- appointed by the Board of the District, not elected or appointed from within the District.

BOARD of the District -- a group of five members, one from each of the five churches in the District. This board is also to elect a representative to the 1962 District Conference.

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The positions which we are asked to bring nominees for follow:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board: Clergy Representative is Rev. Gilbert Lincoln. The lay representative is now open.

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. This Board deals with campus, hospital, and other such specialized ministries. It may be either a clergy person or a lay person.

You will find a form at bottom of this page where you may make suggestions to the nominating committee. We will then discuss and bring nominations at the District Conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in February.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Beers
Rev. Marge Ragona
Mr. Jerry Cunningham
Mr. Fred Bradford
Mr. Bill Smith

TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

My suggestion for nominees for the following positions are:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications _____

Phone Number: _____

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries: _____

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Please return to:
Rev. Marge Ragona, MCC Providence
5 Junction Street
Providence, R.I. 02907

Signed

Minister _____ Delegate _____

for follow:

UNITED RAIL ROAD & TRANSIT CO. OF NEW YORK
The 1st representative is now dead.

UNITED RAIL ROAD & TRANSIT CO. OF NEW YORK
The 1st representative is now dead.

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METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
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1870

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Rev. Marge Ragona
Mr. Jerry Cunningham
Mr. Fred Bradford
Mr. Bill Smith

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UFMCC Financial Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications _____

Phone Number: _____

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries: _____

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Please return to:
Rev. Marge Ragona, MCC Providence
5 Junction Street
Providence, R.I. 02907

Signed

Minister _____ Delegate _____

January 6, 1977

Ms. Nancy Avard
35 Cambridge Avenue
Englewood, New Jersey 07631

Dear Nan:

Providence, Praise the Lord, is not behind in their tithe! My treasurer has been sending the tithes, including the back ones, to Gloria Audet, and has just sent the last of the back tithes to her. We should be completely paid up at this point, so that the \$32.16 that you closed us out as owing has already been paid to her, which should balance her books!

The shortage was lack of knowledge. We did not know that Missions paid 2% or \$10.00 whichever was ~~xxxxxx~~ higher. Edward brought it to my attention, and we have clarified that and paid it up, also. Bite your tongue before you suggest ~~that~~ we go back to Study Group status -- it is bad enough going back to Mission from Chartered Church.

As a matter of fact, we have just about caught up with all our back bills -- three months to the Fellowship, Joe Gilbert's phone bill, District tithes, etc. It has been rough going, but while we had the money coming in, I insisted that we use it to get out of the hole we had been in over the summer.

Re the New Jersey thing: I agree with everything your letter set out. I, too, feel New Jersey should be kept together, and I think it should be in the Mid-Atlantic District. As a matter of fact, I think everything you said should be engraved in stone, but I know for a fact that Ed Hougen thinks we will have a great deal of trouble getting it past New York. They would like to hang on to Princeton -- which definitely should be in Mid-Atlantic. As a matter of fact, I think the only counties which should go with Northeast are those reachable by subway (Hudson tubes) from New York. Everything else should remain part of the state, and that should go with Mid-Atlantic. Ed thinks everything north of the ~~xxxx~~ counties with subway connection to N.Y. should also go with Northeast. I suppose if you are going to divide the state that makes sense, although I am against division at all. I think the District will go for the division, with the northern counties going with Northeast, and the southern with Mid-Atlantic. I would imagine that will make it difficult for you, should you decide to start a Study Group in your area.

How's Union? Harvard has been good, but I have been too busy to put much work into it. Have had to drop back to audit status.

Jean, however, has done very well. I cannot imagine how I can go to school this next term, unless I take only one course, and quit my job in Boston. If I can find work here, I may take a course at Harvard, if not -- school will have to wait.

I am in process of applying to Brown -- which is a Baptist School -- maybe this time I will find time to go. Also, Michael Nordstrom came up with some scholarship information which looks promising. If I can get a scholarship, then school is a definite possibility.

I look forward to seeing you all at Conference. My best to Barbara.

Love, in Christ

Marge

The Northeast District
Universal Fellowship Of
Metropolitan Community Churches



35 Cambridge Avenue
Englewood, New Jersey 07631
December 23, 1977

Rev. Marjorie Ragona
5 Junction Road
Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Marge;

As you may know Providence is in arrears in their tithes to the District. May, June, and July were not paid at all and August was \$2.16 short. This means \$32.16 is owed to the old Northeast District. I have gone ahead and closed out those books without this amount but have given the new NE District \$32.16 less than was given to the Mid Atlantic. This means that Providence should pay the new NE District \$32.16.

You are probably wondering why August was short. August and now October were paid on just 2%, however, a Mission group must pay 2% or \$10 a month whichever is greater. This means you also owe \$1.50 more for October. The District could be asked to forgive this past due although they have done that for Providence before but to allow you to pay just the flat 2% you would have to be willing to become a study group again.

These amounts should now be sent to Gloria and I am sending her a copy of this letter. I understand that your ministry there is going very well, that's good news!

Sincerely,

Nancy
Nancy C. Avard
Treasurer

$$\frac{500^{00}}{\underline{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}}}$$

700

$$\begin{array}{r} 155 \\ 35 \\ 35 \\ 14 \\ \hline 239 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 60 \\ \hline 4 \overline{) 250} \end{array}$$

$$\underline{25^{00}}$$

\$250⁰⁰

$$\underline{48^{00}} \text{ conf. reg.}$$

$$8 \overline{) 232^{00}} \text{ air fare}$$

$$8 \overline{) 308}$$

Prov. to Tampa

Beacon Tours

H. Lansing Jones

11/26/77

Marge,

We need to get our proposal together concerning the Districting of N.J. by Feb. Dist. conference. This includes conferring with the Mid-Atlantic committee.

I have, therefore, drawn up the enclosed statement supporting not dividing N.J. and placing it with the Mid-Atlantic Dist. I also gave a suggested division if it is divided. I ~~trayed~~ tried to remember your suggestions for the latter. Please read this and make comments, suggestions, rewrite etc. I feel quite strongly about ~~leaving~~ N.J. in one piece and prefer the idea of it being in the Mid-Atlantic district.

As soon as I can get yours + Shelby's replies + we develop a ~~consensus~~ consensus I can then work with the Mid-Atlantic people. I know you are busy but a quick response would be helpful.

It has occurred to me that Barbara

Smoker would be a good candidate for
the Lay Advisory Board and ~~the~~ Bill Smith
& the nominating committee are also
considering her. I think that would be a
better move than me since I will be going
into the clergy one of these days.

Hope things are going well!

Nancy

DISTRICTING NEW JERSEY

New Jersey should be left together in one district, probably in the Mid-Atlantic. Admittedly parts of northern Jersey relate to New York City a great deal. However, they also relate to all of New Jersey.

If the intent of dividing the old Northeast District into two new districts was to encourage growth then that growth principle should also be kept in mind when we discuss whether or not to split Jersey and if so how.

It is a well known fact that Northern Jersey is constantly overshadowed by New York City and Southern Jersey by Philadelphia. New Jersey has no major television or radio station because of this nor is there a really large newspaper. New Jerseyans are constantly complaining that they do not get adequate news coverage and that their problems are frequently second place in deliberations of financing and assistance to those of Philly and NYC. Gay people, church going people feel these conflicts as much as other New Jerseyans.

It would seem, therefore, that the way to encourage growth of MCC in New Jersey is to leave the state together as one state in one district and not as two half-states, nonentities, overshadowed once again by NYC and Philly, simply adjuncts. Pride in what one is, i.e. a New Jerseyan can be uplifting and motivating. That pride would be enhanced in New Jersey if we could relate as a whole within MCC and this would then help the growth of MCC in New Jersey, a state where at least three MCC have already closed down.

To call any area of New Jersey a bedroom community is a put down. It infers that they are dependent on Philly and NYC and have no self-identity. So where's the impetus to growth? How are they ever going to be able to strike out on their own and start MCC's? By leaving them as a united New Jersey, for once, not overshadowed by the big cities to whom they relate. In talking to New Jerseyans at GAANJ and elsewhere the majority feeling is to keep New Jersey together.

To divide N.J. presents a real problem, where do you divide? There is NYC related Jersey, Philly related Jersey, resort Jersey, and rural Jersey. If Bergen (urban), Passaic (urban and rural), Essex (urban), Hudson (urban), and Union (urban and rural) Counties are put in the NE as the most NYC related counties then the rest of northern Jersey (mainly rural) is left to relate to south Jersey. However, Morris County (rural) has Morristown (a potential future MCC) which relates to Bergen County. If you put Morris in the NED then you have two counties in the northwest corner far from southern Jersey. They, however, relate to Pennsylvania which is Mid-Atlantic but then Morris also relates to these two and to Pa.

Likewise, arguments could be made for Middlesex(rural) to go either way. Monmouth (resort) relates to NYC and to the five urban north Jersey counties but it also relates to Ocean County (resort). Ocean County relates to Philly more than to NYC. Mercer County is closest to Philly but being the home of Trenton the state capitol it relates to both parts of the state and both parts relate to it.

At some future date the number of MCC's in and around NYC might make feasible and meaningful a district of just these urban MCC's but we are not there now. If and when that day comes that new district could be made by taking parts of the NED and M-AD. In the meantime our present goal is growth and that is best served by keeping New Jersey together and assigning it to the Mid-Atlantic District. Geographically it is more in that District than the Northeast. The largest part of New Jersey both geographically and by population relates to Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Other than these factors it is difficult to tell which District N.J. should be placed in. The NED presently has ten church bodies not counting New Haven and New Hampshire, its income from tithes for the first nine months of this year was \$48.30 more than M-AD not counting \$32.16 owed by Providence. The M-AD presently has eight church bodies including Princeton and Tidewater. This balance would tend to indicate N.J. should go with the M-AD. Since there is only one study group in N.J. presently some of this discussion is moot. Both Districts have lots of room to grow in with or without New Jersey.

If it were to be divided the following division is suggested: NED-Sussex, Warren, Passiac, Morris, Bergen, Essex and Union Counties. M-AD-Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Atlantic, Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May. This division isn't the greatest but if a line must be drawn it must be somewhere.

The recommendation is to leave New Jersey in one peice and place it in the Mid-Atlantic District.

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING
Sunday, February 5, 1978 - Hartford Conference

A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. at the MCC Center, 11 Amity Street, Hartford, by Rev. Edward Hougen, district coordinator. The district secretary asked that all lay and alternate lay delegates give to him on a piece of paper each one's name, church, status as the main or alternate delegate, and address to which they would like a copy of the minutes sent.

B. Seating of the Delegates

From MCC Boston.....	Rev. Edward Hougen*		Mr. Bobby Stevens
From Alpha & Omega MCC.....	Rev. Dee Jackson.....		Mr. Bill Smith
From MCC Hartford.....	Rev. Jay Deacon.....		Mr. Robert Marche
From MCC Hispana.....	Rev. Jose Mojica.....		Mr. Andy Fernandez
From MCC New York.....	Rev. Gilbert Lincoln.....		Mr. Chuck David
	Rev. Shelley Hamilton**		Mr. James Ricketson
	Rev. Jim Beers		Mr. Chet Snow
	Rev. Michael Nordstrom		
	Rev. Karen Ziegler		
From MCC Providence.....	Rev. Marge Ragona.....		Mr. Walter Laurie
From MCC Syracuse.....	Mr. Bob Freeman-Jones.....		Ms. Mary-Lib Whitney
From MCC Worchester.....	--		Ms. Barbara Smoker

Seated as district officers: Mr. Bruce Gerig, secretary; and Ms. Gloria Audet, treasurer.

Seated later as the newly-elected lay representative to the Northeast District Board of Home Missions: Ms. Jean Gralley.

* - District coordinator; ** - Assistant district coordinator.

C. Preliminary Reports

1. Secretary's minutes for the last district business meeting - Extra copies of the minutes for the Northeast District business meeting held at MCC New York on October 1, 1977, were handed out. A motion was given to accept these minutes as written, and it passed unanimously.
2. District coordinator's report - Rev. Hougen reported that he had made eight visits to three churches in the district (Worchester, Hartford and Providence) since the October conference, and he preached in two services during these visits. A motion was given to accept this report and it was passed unanimously.
3. District treasurer's report - Ms. Audet handed out copies of the closing financial report of the old Northeast District, for the period 10/1/77 - 12/10/77, prepared by Ms. Nancy Avard, and of the beginning financial report for the new Northeast District, for the period 12/10/77 - 2/3/78 (See Appendix A). A motion was made to accept these reports, and was passed unanimously.
4. Report from the lay delegates' caucus - The district secretary reported that the lay delegates had met in two meetings on Saturday, February 4, and had taken the following two actions:
 - a. Election of the lay representative, and alternate, to the Board of Home Missions - Ms. Jean Gralley was elected lay representative and Ms. Barbara Smoker was elected alternate lay representative.
 - b. Proposal for a district lay council - The following resolution was to be presented at this business meeting:

"Yesterday after extended discussion, the lay delegates of this conference agreed to present this recommendation to this business session:

"(1) A Northeast District Lay Council shall be formed, including one liaison member selected from each church and all other interested lay persons in the district.

"(2) The elected lay representative to the Northeast District Board of Home Missions shall serve as chairperson of this council.

"(3) This council shall be scheduled time to meet at every Northeast District conference.

"(4) This council shall seek ways to channel lay person ideas onto the district level, to stimulate lay person interest in Northeast District activities, and to seek additional ways to encourage inter-congregational communications."

Rev. Hougen suggested a motion that "the lay representative to the district Board of Home Missions shall be a voting member of that district." Both the resolution and the friendly amendment passed unanimously.

D. Election of District Representatives - The nominating committee elected October 1 to draw up a slate of nominations for various Northeast District posts to be filled presented the following names.

1. For UFMCC Financial Advisory Board - Rev. Gilbert Lincoln, as clergy representative; and Mr. Jose Vargas (MCC Hispana), Mr. Jim Hayes (MCC Boston) and Mr. Walter Laurie (MCC Providence) as lay representative. The chair recommended that Mr. Hayes' name be dropped because Rev. Ragona, reporting for this committee, said that it had not been able to contact him for a confirmation that he would serve if elected. No additional names were added from the floor. Rev. Lincoln was elected unanimously for the clergy post; and Mr. Vargas, an accountant, was elected for the lay post by a vote of Vargas-9 and Laurie-3.
2. For UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries - The names of Rev. Jim Beers, Mr. Bill Smith, and Mr. Bob Freeman-Jones were presented for the post of district representative. No additional names were added from the floor, and Mr. Freeman-Jones asked that his name be withdrawn. Mr. Smith was elected by a vote of Smith-13, Beers-11.
3. For UFMCC Task Force on Women - Rev. Ragona reported that the women's workshop on Saturday had elected Rev. Marge Ragona as the district representative and Ms. Cheryl McCullough as the alternate representative.
4. For UFMCC Task Force on Men - It was reported that no representative was elected at the men's workshop. Mr. Gerig asked if any man in the room would like to volunteer, but no one did. The chair asked Mr. Gerig if he would like to help get this group going, and he agreed to do so.

E. New Business

1. Adoption of a 1978 district budget - The chair drew attention to the proposed budget that had been included in his letter of January 12, 1978 (see Appendix B) sent out to all delegates of this conference. He commented that a subcommittee of the district Board of Home Missions had drawn up this budget. There had been discussion of providing the district coordinator and assistant district coordinator with stipends but no way to provide this was found that would not place undue strain on the local churches.

One delegate asked what the "escrow" budget line was for, and the chair explained that this was money available for use by the district officers without any specific

accounting being required for it.

Ms. Audet, treasurer, moved that this proposed budget be adopted, and the motion was passed unanimously.

2. Adoption of district financial procedures - The chair noted that in most cases the procedures being presented for vote were those used by the old Northeast District. The chair presented the following procedures:
 - a. The escrow fund, available to the Board of Home Missions, shall consist of 20% of the district tithes and offerings received.
 - b. The fund for the district Task Force on Women shall be determined by recommendation from this task force to the Board of Home Missions.
 - c. The scholarship fund for the district Task Force on Racism shall be determined by a committee made up of three members from the Northeast District Task Force on Racism, two members from the district Board of Home Missions, and the district coordinator.

Rev. Deacon moved that these three procedures be accepted and this motion was passed unanimously.

- d. The "Gay Christian" fund of the old district was left with \$14.60. It was moved that this money be placed in the new district fund for this publication, and this motion passed unanimously.
- e. The prison ministry fund of the old Northeast District included \$14.85, half of which, \$7.42, was allocated to our new Northeast District. It was moved that this fund be merged with the district "working" fund, and this motion passed with all but one for and with one against.

Mr. Smith said he felt that a specific fund of money should be in existence for this important ministry and that more rather than less money should be raised and should be available for it. The chair said that money would be available from the working fund for this ministry.

- f. Retroactive reimbursement of district expenses since the October, 1977 district conference - Rev. Deacon moved that all of the expenses incurred during the first period of the new district, coming to around \$275.00, be reimbursed out of the money given to the new Northeast District from the division of the old Northeast District fund. Mr. Snow asked if there was enough money to cover to these expenses from this sum, and the chair said that there was.

This motion was passed unanimously.

3. Next election for district officers - The chair recommended, although the general length of term for the district officers is two years, that the next election of the four district officers be held at the May, 1979 district conference. This is so that these new officers will be the ones going to General Conference to be convened in the summer of 1979. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. Guidelines for the financing of district conferences - Rev. Deacon offered the following proposal:

"Local churches shall assume the responsibilities for the financing of district conferences, with the following exceptions and specifications:
"(1) The host church may borrow up to \$200 from the district, to be repaid to the district treasury by the end of the conference.
"(2) The offering from the main service shall be given to the district treasury.
"(3) A special reduced registration rate shall be made available to those in particular financial need."

Mr. Snow remarked that he thought there might be instances where more money would be needed, e.g. if Troy Perry was being flown in from Los Angeles for

a district conference. The chair said that such an increased loan would have to be approved by the district.

The chair suggested that the host church that puts so much energy into preparing a district conference should make money from it. Rev. Jackson said that she thought the \$15 registration fee at this conference was too high and that the conference fees should be set by the district, not the host church. The chair replied that the preregistration fee had only gone up from \$8.00 at the October, 1977 conference to \$10.00 at this conference. He said he felt that because of the \$15.00 registration fee required if someone had not preregistered, more of attendees at this conference had preregistered.

Mr. Gerig said that he felt that it was not so important for a church to make money off of a district conference as it was for the cost for those attending to be kept down as low as possible, except for the money that was needed to provide for good food and facilities. As many people as possible ought to be encouraged to come to these conferences, not discouraged because of high registration costs.

Rev. Hamilton said she thought the district could set a fee but that the reality of escalating prices and of expenses differing from community to community should be faced.

The chair said that he had asked that the registration fee be increased for the Hartford conference so that the host church could make a profit from the conference. He said that the increase in preregistration fee had only been raised \$2.00. (An MCC Hartford member said that most of the 105 people who attended this conference had preregistered.)

Rev. Ragona offered a friendly amendment that "requests for reduced registration rates for those in financial need must have the approval of the local pastor." She said she thought it would be wise to have the applicant's pastor sign the request for such a deduction before it is sent to the church hosting a conference.

Rev. Deacon accepted this amendment and the proposal was passed unanimously.

5. Setting of the conference registration fee - Rev. Jackson proposed that a ceiling be placed on how high a registration fee could be set by a host church, and Mr. Gerig suggested that it not exceed \$15.00 per person. Ms. Gralley said she thought such a ceiling would only serve to drive the fee amount upward. Mr. Freeman-Jones said he thought the fee ought to be based on the costs which a church estimates. He felt the local church should try to keep the fee down as low as possible and was against any \$15.00 registration fee. The vote on adopting a ceiling of \$15.00 for a registration fee that can be charged for a district conference was passed, 13 for and 8 against.
6. Evaluation of district conferences - Mr. Gerig said he felt it would be helpful for conference attendees if the host church would send out a schedule including the times of various events prior to the conference.
Mr. Snow made a motion that "at the end of each district conference the delegates shall have an opportunity to fill out an evaluation form expressing how they felt about that conference." Such a form could be included in the conference packet that she or he receives at the beginning of the conference. This motion was passed unanimously.
7. Guidelines for billing the district for district expenses - Rev. Deacon proposed that "all expenses billed to the district must be approved by the district coordinator except those submitted by the district coordinator, assistant district coordinator and district treasurer." Mr. Gerig offered a friendly amendment that the district secretary also be included in those exempted, and Rev. Deacon accepted this amendment. The motion was passed unanimously.

F. Committee and Ministry Reports

1. Report from the district Commission on Innovative Ministries - Rev. Michael Nordstrom, chairperson, announced that he had asked Mr. David Foote (Alpha and Omega MCC), Rev. Beers, Mr. Bob Marche (MCC Hartford), and Mr. Freeman-Jones to serve on this commission. He invited everyone interested to come to Providence April 17-21 to see what is being done at Rhodes Island College to develop potential income sources for the handicapped.

He emphasized that an interpreter for the deaf should be provided at district conferences and that consciousness-raising is needed in this area.

Rev. Nordstrom made a motion that the questions "Are you handicapped?" and "Do you have special needs?" should be placed on all registration forms. Mr. Freeman-Jones responded that he thought the host church rather should just be ready for disabled members who come. Mr. Foote remarked that he did not feel that words like "handicapped" and "disabled" should appear on the registration forms. Rev. Nordstrom said that he would withdraw his motion.

2. Report from the district Women's Task Force - Rev. Ragona presented a motion that "the Mother Eagle Review shall be considered as an official publication of the Northeast District." She said that this motion had been passed by the district Women's Task Force, and that the women also would like the approval of this business session in this. Rev. Lincoln asked what was meant by the word "official" and Rev. Ragona replied that this meant it would be recognized as publication of the Women's Task Force of the Northeast District. Ms. Avard commented that this review was being published in conjunction with the WTF of the Mid-Atlantic District. The motion was passed unanimously.
3. Report from the committee on the dividing of New Jersey - Ms. Avard offered a proposal that "the state of New Jersey should not be divided between the new Northeast District and the Mid-Atlantic District but that it should remain a geographical whole and be made a part of the Mid-Atlantic District." She suggested that thinking of northeastern New Jersey as an extension of New York City and southwestern New Jersey as an extension of Philadelphia often has resulted in a neglect of the specific needs of the people who live in this state. She noted that at least three initial MCC groups in New Jersey have closed down for some reasons. On a map it can be seen that geographically the state is situated more in the area of Pennsylvania and other Mid-Atlantic states than with the Northeast.

The committee studying this in the Mid-Atlantic District reported that it would agree to either of two proposals: (1) the four counties in the New York City area shall be placed with the Northeast District with the rest of New Jersey being made a part of the Mid-Atlantic District, or (2) the whole state of New Jersey shall be made a part of the Mid-Atlantic District. If we accept either of these proposals, then this matter can be forwarded to the Board of Elders for final approval.

Rev. Ragona moved that we consider New Jersey a southern state and place it with the Mid-Atlantic District. Rev. Beers said he still felt that the residents of Monmouth County in New Jersey, where he had worked, considered themselves more a part of the greater New York City area than a part of southern New Jersey.

The motion to make the whole of New Jersey part of the Mid-Atlantic District was passed, 16 for and 2 against.

G. Closing Matters

1. Scheduling of business meetings during district conferences - Rev. Jackson made a motion that the business meeting be scheduled on Saturday sometime, during the district conferences, because it was impossible for her and her members to return back to Brooklyn for their worship service which starts at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

Rev. Deacon said he felt that the business session could not be scheduled on Saturday because it would break up the Saturday program and also that not all of the people are interested in attending the business sessions.

Rev. Hamilton suggested that the business meeting be held first thing on Saturday morning of the district conference.

Mr. Gerig said that he felt that the business session could be scheduled from 3:30-5:30 on Saturday and still leave all of Saturday morning and most of the afternoon for presentations and workshops. He suggested that perhaps even the Saturday evening worship service could be scheduled on Sunday morning.

Rev. Jackson said that she felt the business session should be scheduled so as many members attending conference could attend as possible.

Mr. Snow suggested that other preaching arrangements should be made if a pastor could not return in time to be present for his or her worship service and that district conferences only come three times a year.

The motion to move the business session from Sunday morning to Saturday sometime was defeated by a vote of 4 for and 15 against.

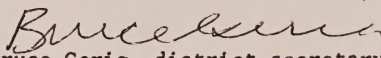
2. Scheduling of future district conferences - The chair announced that MCC Boston was willing to host the next conference in May, either the weekend of 12-14 or 19-21. Rev. Ragona pointed out that May 13 was Mother's Day, that she had 15 lesbian mothers in her congregation and that they wanted to have a very special service that Sunday. Rev. Hougen said he would keep that in mind and that if the conference could be scheduled for the other weekend, it would be. The motion to have the May, 1978 district conference at MCC Boston was passed unanimously.

The chair announced that MCC Providence had offered to host the fall, 1978 district conference and MCC Hispana the winter, 1979 district conference.

3. Thanks to MCC Hartford for hosting this conference - Mr. Stevens moved that MCC Hartford be given a standing ovation of thanks for hosting the present conference, and the motion was passed unanimously.
4. Name change for the Pastors' Spouses Association - Ms. Smoker presented a motion that the name of this group be changed to Exhorters', Deacons' and Ministers' Spouses Association. The motion was passed unanimously.
5. Payment of district tithes by churches - The district treasurer made a motion that "church bodies must be current in the payment of their tithes at the convening of each district conference business session in order to retain their voting privilege at that meeting."
Mr. Snow proposed that there be some guideline for a church who, for unusual reasons, is unable to pay all of their tithe, either by appeal to the Board of Home Missions or to the district business meeting. The chair offered an amendment that any church that feels unable to bring its district tithe up-to-date prior to a district business meeting, due to special circumstances, shall present its appeal at the beginning of that business meeting." Rev. Hamilton offered a friendly amendment that "special" circumstances in this amendment be changed to "extraordinary" circumstances. The chair accepted this amendment, and the motion and amendment were passed unanimously.
6. Reports from district churches - Ms. Smoker asked if reports from all the churches in the district could be given at the beginning of the business sessions, as had been done in the past. She said she felt that these reports were informative. The chair said that he felt reports on the churches could be given in various forms and at various times throughout the conference, such as in the workshops given the previous day at this conference. He said that attention would be given to giving information out in some way on the various churches at every district conference.

- H. Motion to Adjourn - Rev. Hamilton moved that the business meeting be adjourned, and Rev. Ragona and Rev. Jackson asked that it be adjourned with prayer. Rev. Hougen led in closing prayer and the meeting convened c. 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, district secretary

APPENDIX A

-2-

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT
SIXTEENTH QUARTER

10/1/77 - 12/10/77

BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/77		\$403.86	
INCOME:			
Tithes	\$394.20		
District Conf. Collection	482.66		
Women's Task Force	218.20		
Mother Eagle Review	14.00		
#Repay Advance	145.61		
@Women's Basketball	17.00		
TOTAL INCOME	1271.67	1271.67	
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE		\$1675.53	
EXPENSES:			
Escrow	\$168.00		
Working:			
Telephone	\$59.11		
Travel	198.00		
Service Charges	5.44		
@MCC/NYC	17.00		
Copies	3.84		
TOTAL WORKING	283.39	283.39	
Women's Task Force (loan repaid)	200.00		
Mother Eagle Review	18.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	669.39	-669.39	
BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/77		\$1006.14	

BALANCE BY FUND:			
#Escrow	\$198.12		
Working	390.78		
Scholarship	172.09		
Prison Ministry	14.85		
Gay Christian	14.60		
*Women's Task Force	207.70		
Mother Eagle Review	8.00		
TOTAL	1006.14	1006.14	

NYC/MCC was advanced \$200 (\$100 each from Escrow and Scholarship). They repaid only \$145.61 deducting \$54.39 in expenses for Troy's hotel, phone calls to arrange his visit and to arrange various speakers, etc. for the Conf. and for calls made on District business during the weekend of the Conf. Therefore, \$100 was repaid to scholarship and \$45.61 to Escrow. This expense of \$54.39 is not included under Escrow expenses because it did not go out of the books by the usual method of a check. The Treasurer was not notified to expect this expense and therefore, directed as to how it was to be paid. It was therefore, assumed that the Board of Home Missions intended for it to be covered by Escrow.

- * \$17 for Women's Basketball at NYC/MCC was put in the Dist. Cnf. collection by mistake so it was deposited and a check for \$17 was sent to NYC/MCC.
- * The District paid \$225 of the \$450 approved, \$96.49 of this was transferred from Working to WTF in this Quarter.

DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES

BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/77		\$1006.14	
TO MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT:			
*Escrow	\$104.99		
*Working	219.12		
Scholarship	86.04		
Prison Ministry	7.43		
Women's Task Force	103.85		
Mother Eagle Review	8.00		
TOTAL	\$526.93	\$526.93	
TO NORTHEAST DISTRICT:			
*Escrow	\$93.13		
*Working	171.66		
Scholarship	86.05		
Prison Ministry	7.42		
Gay Christian	14.60		
Women's Task Force	103.85		
TOTAL	\$479.21	\$479.21	
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED		\$1006.14	

* The difference in these figures reflect \$5 additional in NED (\$1 Escrow, \$4 Working) for an advance \$5 payment Hartford made on its Oct. tithe and \$32.16 in tithes (6.43 Escrow, 25.73 working) owed by Providence. MAD was given \$32.16 more and Providence will pay this amount to NED.

Submitted by
Nancy C. Avard, Treasurer
December 22, 1977

APPENDIX A, continued

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT
FIRST QUARTER

12/10/77 - 2/3/78

BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/77		\$479.21
INCOME: Tithes	\$238.32	
Women's Task Force	10.40	
TOTAL INCOME	248.72	248.72
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE		\$727.93
EXPENSES: #Transfer to Mid Atlantic	\$ 2.50	
Service Charge	1.62	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4.12	-4.12
BALANCE ON HAND 2/3/78		\$723.81
BALANCE BY FUND: Escrow	\$140.79	
Working	360.70	
Scholarship	86.05	
Prison Ministry	7.42	
Gay Christian	14.60	
Women's Task Force	114.25	
TOTAL	\$723.81	\$723.81

Error in distribution of money between districts discovered by Nancy Aard after final financial report to the new NED had been completed.

Respectfully submitted
February 3, 1978
Gloria J. Audet, Treasurer NED

APPENDIX B

January 12, 1978

Dear Ministers, delegates, and district officers,

The February districe conference in Hartford is fast approaching. There are several important items of buisiness to be transacted:

I. ELECTIONS

- A. A lay delegate to sit on the Board of Home Missions will be chosen. It is my hope that whoever is elected to this position might actively seek lay input from the various church groups by maintaining contact with lay delegates both during and between conferences. It is my further hope that churches will seek to send the same lay delegates to conferences so that lay people might become better known to each other as well as the clergy from other churches. The rapid turn-over among lay delegates effectively keeps district affairs dominated by clergy--a situation, I believe, that pleases the clergy no more than the lay people.
- B. Other district positions included in your list from our nominating committee. If you have not already responded to Marge's request (on behalf of the nominating committee) for the names of qualified people, please do so right away.

II. THE ADOPTION OF A BUDGET-- the district treasurer and I are enclosing a proposed budget based on the best information we have at the time. If there are serious omissions or disagreements, please try to notify me of them prior to the conference, so I can let others know what issues might be coming up for discussion or debate. You will note that the proposed budget includes no stipend for either the district coordinator or the assistant district coordinator. This is in part due to the fact that we are a smaller district, therefore requiring (hopefully) a less-crushing time demand on your officers, but principally due to the fact that when other district essentials are provided for, there is no money left. If the income projections prove unduly conservative or the projected expenses grossly inflated, at some future conference we might propose some modest stipend. We did not include in this proposed budget those special funds whose income and expenditures do not come out of district tithes and offerings. These funds, however, will be listed in the treasurer's report and discussed at the business meeting.

III. PROCEDURAL AND FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

Since all financial issues were tabled to this conference, various resolutions will be made to establish the procedures by which the new Northeast District will operate.

APPENDIX B, continued

pg. 2

In most cases we will simply propose the adoption of the old Northeast Districts's procedures. However, any proposed changes in procedure would be in order if anyone so desires. Procedural questions to be voted upon include:

- A. Escrow (that fund spent at the discretion of the Board of Home Missions)--20% of district tithes and offerings.
- B. Task Force on Women's fund
- C. Task Force on Racism's Scholarship Fund
- D. Gay Christian Fund
- E. Prison Ministry Fund (move to merge with working fund)
- F. Retroactive Re-embursement of district expenses between conferences.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Guidelines for host church and district in financing conferences.
- B. Guidelines for billing district for district expenses
- C. Recommendation for division of New Jersey
- D. Status of Mother Eagle Review as "official" district publication.

There are very likely other agenda items which have not yet come to my attention. If you are aware of any please contact me prior to the conference.

Groups presently to be granted meeting time and space during the conference are: Task Force on Women, Task Force on Men, Task Force on Racism, Prison Ministry, Minister's Spouse Association. If your group wants time and space and is not among the preceding, please let me know prior to the conference.

District tithe checks and forms are to be sent to Gloria Audet, Buteau Road, Leicester, Mass. 01524. Please keep your tithes current. Our district is now half the old size with less than half the old money.

As a new district with new officers, there will no doubt be some slips and slights unintended in carrying on our district affairs. Please let Shelley, Bruce, Gloria, or me know if we are overlooking any of our responsibilities. Feel free to suggest to us ways to perform our tasks more effectively. Also tell us when we are doing things well!

I'm happy to report that the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson will be with us at the conference and visiting among district churches for two weeks around the conference.

I look forward to seeing you all soon,

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Edward T. Hougen

PROPOSED NORTHEAST DISTRICT BUDGET
1978

<u>ESTIMATED INCOME</u>	<u>YEARLY</u>	<u>MONTHLY</u>
District Tithes	\$1600.	\$133.
Conference Offerings	300.	25.
TOTAL	\$1900	\$158
 <u>EXPENSES</u>		
Escrow	\$360	\$30
Innovative Ministries	300	25
Mailing & Printing	60	5
Telephone	600	50
Travel & Lodging	480	40
Washington Office	100	8
TOTAL	\$1900	\$158

MARGE

FEBRUARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE / NORTHEAST DISTRICT, UFMCC / HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

PROCESS OUTLINE FOR OBSERVERS

You'll be asked to analyze the group process assigned to you on the following bases:

Style of interaction

Faith assumptions

Individual needs and goals, and group needs and goals

Please listen carefully to the Introduction at 9:30 am on Saturday morning, noting the following points: (some of the following will NOT be included in that Introduction)

Style of Interaction

How group members interact is determined by many factors, of course, but during this conference, we'll be looking at the relationship between the group's style of interaction and how each member (and the group as a whole) perceives his/her/its own resources--knowledge, expertise, capabilities, etc--compared with the resources of others.

So we'll be talking the same language, we'll use these four terms to represent four styles of interaction:

DEFENSIVE/INACTIVE

DEVELOPMENTAL/INTERACTIVE

CONTROLLING/PROACTIVE

RELINQUISHING/REACTIVE

Here's what they mean:

DEFENSIVE/INACTIVE responses occur when your view of your own resources, your own ability to deal with the situation, is low, and when your view of the resources of those in your environment about you is low, as well: that is, when you don't think anyone, either your or the others with whom you are dealing, has what the situation demands, and you feel hopeless. You might express your defensive/inactive

response in either of two ways: by fight or by flight. That is, you may seem to "fight" by criticizing, griping, attacking, and insulting others, but you do so in such a way as to give away the fact that you don't believe any helpful resolution of the problem is possible. Further, your angry response guarantees no helpful resolution will be found. Or, you may just withdraw and flee the situation, failing to act at all. In both cases, your response results from your conviction that it's no use.

DEVELOPMENTAL/INTERACTIVE responses happen when you have a high view of your own resources and a high view of the resources of the others in your environment about you as well. An interactive style indicates that you think you've got a good deal to contribute to the situation, and that others do, too. You want to draw forth others' ideas, expertise, etc, and you want to offer your own. You esteem the ideas, knowledge, ability, etc of both about equally.

RELINQUISHING/REACTIVE responses happen when you think little of your own resources, ideas, expertise, etc in a particular situation, but think highly of the resources, etc of the others. You'll "go along" with what they say, or you'll let the situation itself call the shots--you'll just react. You'll comply with the judgment of others, because they know best--or you'll just go along with what happens.

CONTROLLING/PROACTIVE responses mean that you think highly of your own resources but not very highly of the resources of others to face the particular situation. You know what to do, so you take charge.

The diagram, included, may help you conceptualize these four positions.

It is sometimes assumed that the Interactive/Developmental style is necessarily and always the "best." Perhaps it IS the most desirable in terms of overall style, but not in every specific instance. Each style is appropriate in those situations that call for it. What is important is to develop a full repertoire of responses and to be adaptable enough to suit the response to the occasion. So please comment on the appropriateness of the responses you observe.

Faith assumptions

How you interpret, categorize, and assign meaning to the data you have depends on your faith assumptions: what you take most seriously, without reservation. What you really believe in. In decisionmaking, one's perceptions of a situation are conditioned by one's faith assumptions, and it is important to identify them. Conversely, the decisions you make and the things you do speak symbolically of your faith assumptions and reveal them. It's essential to be up-front, honest, and conversant with those assumptions. Not the "formal" ones you may say you believe, but your real ones. Until you are honestly in touch with what you really believe about life, your own actions will not be understandable to you.

Needs and Goals

Everyone has needs, which are translated into goals. These goals become behavior. But most of these needs and goals are unconscious. Most of us have hidden agenda in our lives, hidden even to ourselves.

Clearly, it is important to become conscious of our real needs so we may consciously choose our own goals and the behaviors and actions that will lead us to the fulfilment of our goals. Most of what each of us does is intentional, or purposeful. But few of us are very conscious of our own intentionality.

A group has goals, too, designed to fulfil the needs of its members. But if the members are not in touch with their own needs and goals, the group's officially stated goals are probably not very honest or realistic. If a group's members' real goals are not reflected in the stated goals of the group, apathy results.

It's the question of motivation. What's in it for you? How does this organization help fulfil my personal goals and needs? How can we resolve this problem in such a way as to satisfy (1) my goals for myself and (2) my goals for the organization?

When questions as honest as these can be asked and answered, it is possible to negotiate a set of goals a whole group can share.

HOW THE DAY IS DESIGNED, AND WHAT YOU'LL BE ASKED TO DO:

If you are assigned to an actual church group, in the morning, you'll probably find it easier to discuss the styles of interaction you see: the styles of individuals, and the style of the group as a whole. The operative faith assumptions and the needs and goals motivating people are more hidden, and perhaps the best you can do is ask the group to try to identify those faith and motivation factors involved in what they've been doing.

If you are assigned to be an observer for the mock boards in the afternoon roleplays, you are hereby given permission to make gratuitous assumptions! Besides commenting on the styles of interaction you see, please feel free to make authoritative declarations about the faith assumptions and motivation operative in the members' participation in the "board meeting." The items on our board agenda are made up, so the faith assumptions and the motivations you observe might as well be made up too!

If you are assigned to be a Moderator of one of the four "Boards", we're asking you to play a role. You'll be asked to perform consistently in one of the styles of interaction described earlier. But just what style that is will be revealed only to you, until the exercise is completed.

JEAN

(two sent to James Plinius, as well, to be safe)

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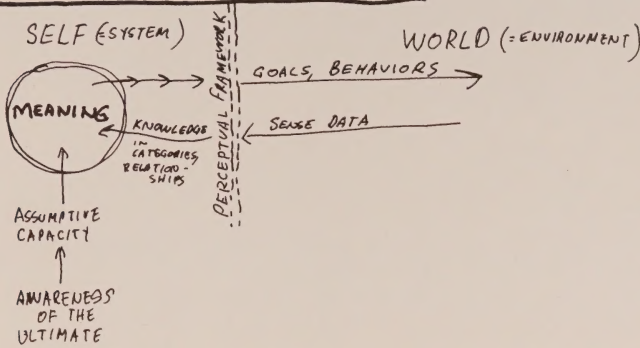
If you are assigned to be a Moderator of one of the four "Boards", we're asking you to play a role. You'll be asked to perform consistently in one of the styles of interaction described earlier. But just what style that is will be revealed only to you, until the exercise is completed.

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF CHURCH LIFE*

*Which, in fact, are applicable to any organization.

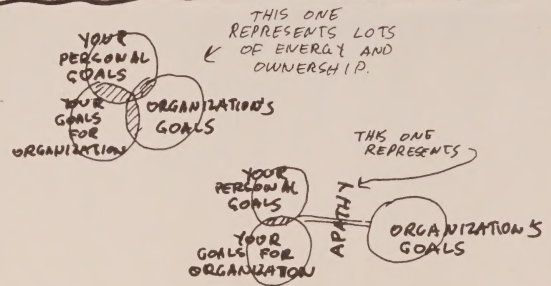
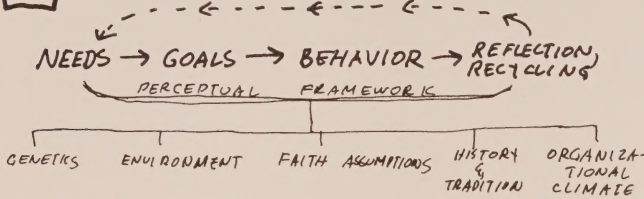
by: F. JAY DEACON

1 FAITH ASSUMPTIONS

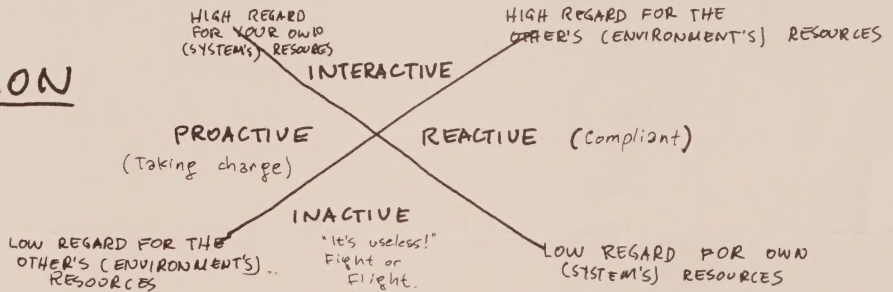


Faith is peculiar to persons. To have faith is to be a person. Persons are not just KNOW-ers, they are MEANING-CREATORS.

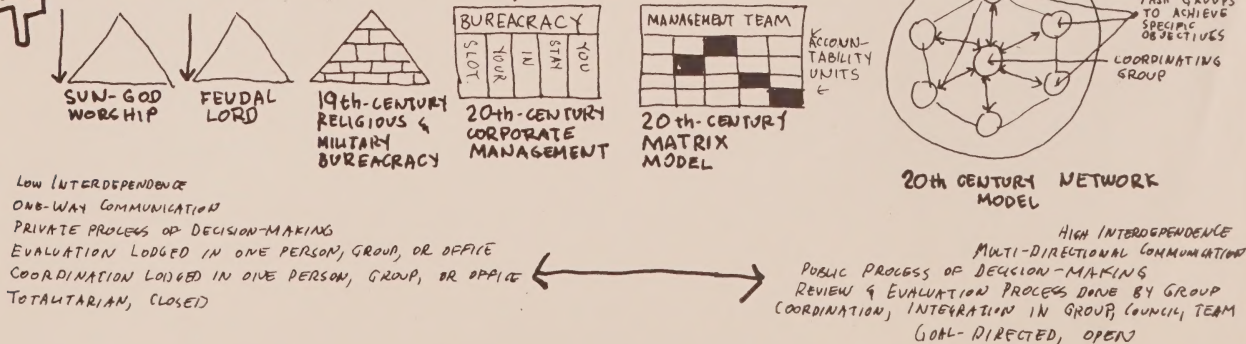
2 INTENTIONALITY



3 STYLE OF INTERACTION



4 PROCEDURE, PROCESS, STRUCTURE



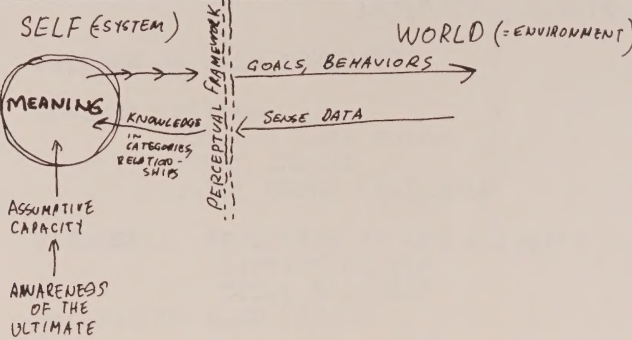
THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF CHURCH LIFE*

by: F. JAY DEACON

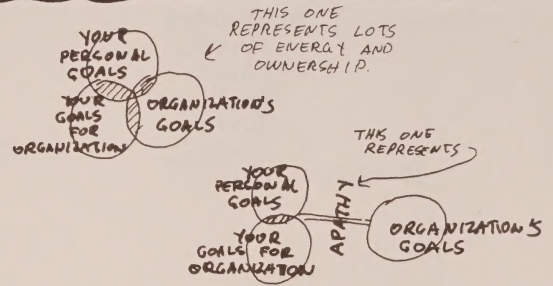
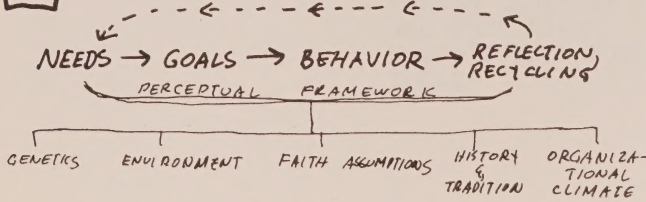
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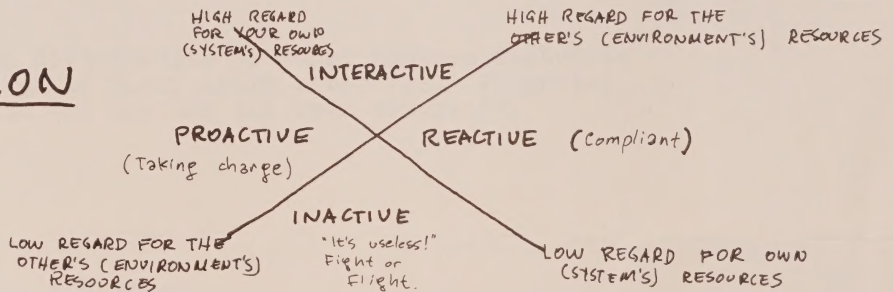
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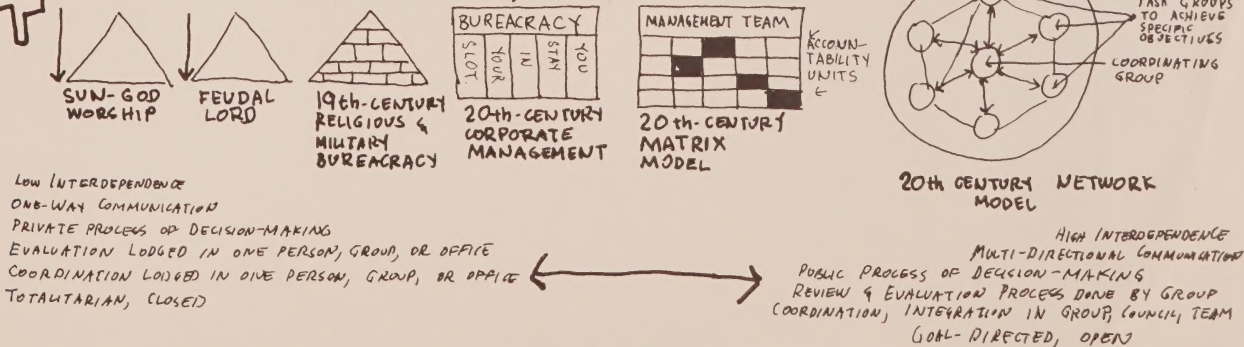
2 INTENTIONALITY



3 STYLE OF INTERACTION



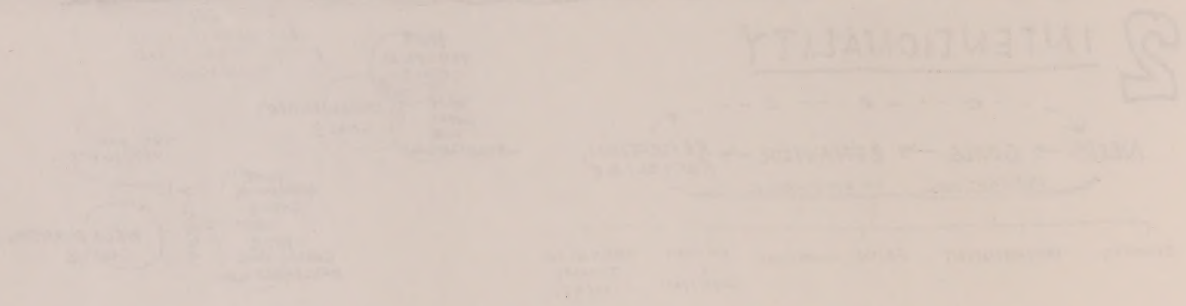
4 PROCEDURE, PROCESS, STRUCTURE



1 FAITH ASSUMPTIONS



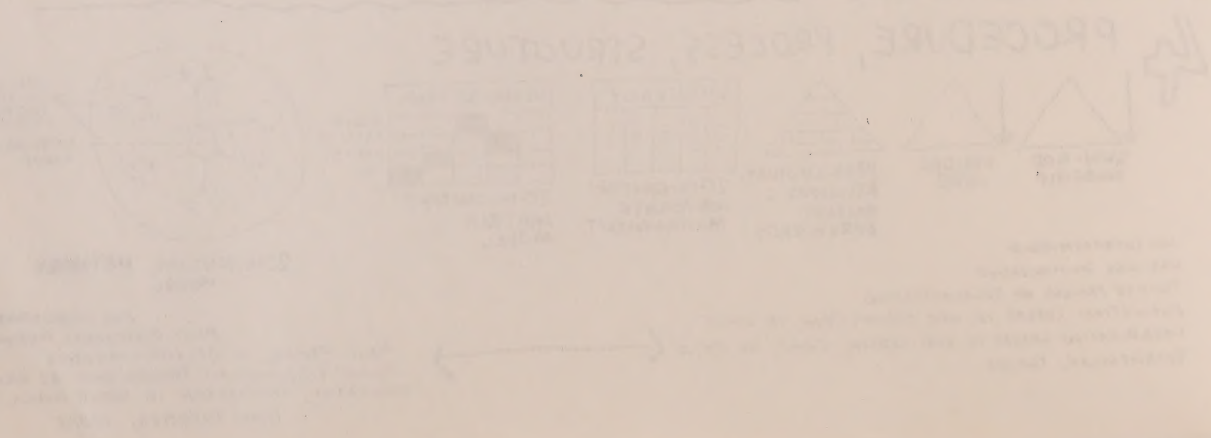
2 INTENTIONALITY



3 STATE OF INTERACTION



4 PROCEDURE, PROCESS, STRUCTURE



UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT
FIRST QUARTER

12/10/77 - 2/3/78

BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/77		\$479.21
INCOME: Tithes	\$238.32	
Women's Task Force	<u>10.40</u>	
TOTAL INCOME	248.72	248.72
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE		<u>\$727.93</u>
EXPENSES: #Transfer to Mid Atlantic	\$ 2.50	
Service Charge	<u>1.62</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	4.12	-4.12
BALANCE ON HAND 2/3/78		<u>\$723.81</u>
BALANCE BY FUND: Escrow	\$140.79	
Working	360.70	
Scholarship	86.05	
Prison Ministry	7.42	
Gay Christian	14.60	
Women's Task Force	<u>114.25</u>	
TOTAL	\$723.81	\$723.81

Error in distribution of money between districts discovered by Nancy Avarad after final financial report to the new NED had been completed.

Respectfully submitted
February 3, 1978
Gloria J. Audet, Treasurer NED.

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT
SIXTEENTH QUARTER

10/1/77 - 12/10/77

BALANCE ON HAND 10/1/77		\$403.86	
INCOME:			
Tithes		\$394.20	
District Conf. Collection		482.66	
Women's Task Force		218.20	
Mother Eagle Review		14.00	
#Repay Advance		145.61	
@Women's Basketball		17.00	
TOTAL INCOME		1271.67	<u>1271.67</u>
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE			\$1675.53
EXPENSES:			
Escrow		\$168.00	
Working:			
Telephone	\$59.11		
Travel	198.00		
Service Charges	5.44		
@MCC/NYC	17.00		
Copies	3.84		
TOTAL WORKING	283.39	283.39	
Women's Task Force (loan repaid)		200.00	
Mother Eagle Review		18.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		669.39	<u>-669.39</u>
BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/77			\$1006.14
BALANCE BY FUND:			
#Escrow		\$198.12	
Working		390.78	
Scholarship		172.09	
Prison Ministry		14.85	
Gay Christian		14.60	
*Women's Task Force		207.70	
Mother Eagle Review		8.00	
TOTAL		1006.14	1006.14

NYC/MCC was advanced \$200 (\$100 each from Escrow and Scholarship). They repaid only \$145.61 deducting \$54.39 in expenses for Troy's hotel, phone calls to arrange his visit and to arrange various speakers, etc. for the Conf. and for calls made on District business during the weekend of the Conf. Therefore, \$100 was repaid to scholarship and \$45.61 to Escrow. This expense of \$54.39 is not included under Escrow expenses because it did not go out of the books by the usual method of a check. The Treasurer was not notified to expect this expense and therefore, directed as to how it was to be paid. It was therefore, assumed that the Board of Home Missions intended for it to be covered by Escrow.

idea:

\$200 loan
offering
Red. Regist. Rate

Schedule $\bar{c}$
for conf. ^{times}

We must have
a mailing permit
if we are going
to host a conf.

Mike can talk
more & tell
less about
what he is
doing.

He doesn't even
see to it that
we have an interpreter

- @ \$17 for Women's Basketball at NYC/MCC was put in the Dist. Cnf. collection by mistake so it was deposited and a check for \$17 was sent to NYC/MCC.
- * The District paid \$225 of the \$450 approved, \$96.49 of this was transferred from Working to WTF in this Quarter.

DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES

BALANCE ON HAND 12/10/77			\$1006.14
TO MID ATLANTIC DISTRICT:	*Escrow	\$104.99	
	*Working	219.12	
	Scholarship	86.04	
	Prison Ministry	7.43	
	Women's Task Force	103.85	
	Mother Eagle Review	<u>8.00</u>	
	TOTAL	\$526.93	\$526.93
TO NORTHEAST DISTRICT:	*Escrow	\$93.13	
	*Working	171.66	
	Scholarship	86.05	
	Prison Ministry	7.42	
	Gay Christian	14.60	
	Women's Task Force	<u>103.85</u>	
	TOTAL	\$479.21	<u>\$479.21</u>
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED			\$1006.14

* The difference in these figures reflect \$5 additional in NED (\$1 Escrow, \$4 Working) for an advance \$5 payment Hartford made on its Oct. tithe and \$32.16 in tithes (6.43 Escrow, 25.73 working) owed by Providence. MAD was given \$32.16 more and Providence will pay this amount to NED.

Submitted by
Nancy C. Avar, Treasurer
December 22, 1977

Prop. Budget

Income

Other

1600

Conf

300

1900

\$275⁰⁰

Exp.

Escrow

360

Innov. Min

300

Mailing

60

Telephone

600

Transp + Lodge.

480

Wash, D.C.

100

\$1900

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (NEW) BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, October 1, 1977 - 3:50-4:50 p.m.
MCC New York Sanctuary, New York, NY

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Shelley Hamilton, outgoing assistant district coordinator of the old Northeast District, who chaired until a district coordinator was elected for the new district. Jay Friend served as acting secretary until a secretary was elected.

A. Delegates Seated

From MCC Boston.....	Rev. Edward Hougen.....	Ms. Jean Gralley
	Rev. Marge Ragona	
From A/O MCC Brooklyn.....	Rev. Dee Jackson.....	Mr. Bruce Gerig
From MCC Hartford.....	Rev. Jay Deacon.....	Ms. Kitty Blissit
From MCC Hispana.....	Rev. Jose Mojica.....	Mr. Angel Hernandez
From MCC New York.....	Rev. Gilbert Lincoln.....	Mr. Hugh Bruce
	Rev. Shelley Hamilton	Mr. Phil Eberle
	Rev. Jim Beers	Mr. Bob Molle
	Rev. Michael Nordstrom	
	Rev. Karen Ziegler	
From MCC Providence.....	Rev. Steve LaFever.....	Mr. Billy Mencer
From MCC Syracuse.....	Mr. Bob Freeman-Jones.....	--
From MCC Worcester.....	--	Ms. Joby Vick

B. New Business

1. Election of New Northeast District Officers

- District Coordinator - Rev. Shelley Hamilton and Rev. Edward Hougen were nominated. Rev. Hougen was elected by a vote of Hamilton-6, Hougen-13, abstention-1.
- Assitant District Coordinator - Rev. Shelley Hamilton was nominated and elected unanimously.
- Secretary - Mr. Bruce Gerig and Ms. Jean Gralley were nominated. Ms. Gralley declined the nomination. Mr. Gerig was elected unanimously and Mr. Bill Smith replaced Mr. Gerig as voting lay delegate from Alpha and Omega MCC.
- Treasurer - Ms. Gloria Audet (an exhorter from MCC Hartford serving with MCC Worcester) and Mr. Steve Pierce (from MCC Boston) were nominated. Ms. Audet was elected by a vote of Audet-17, Pierce-4.

- Financial Support for NE District Innovative Ministries - Rev. Nordstrom asked what district funds might be available for this work. (A stipend of \$25/month had been provided to him in the past as director of this ministry.) The chair recommended that this matter be tabled until the next district business meeting, since the financial situation of the new district is not yet known. Ms. Nancy Avard, outoing NE District treasurer, reported that this figure would not be available until her books were closed on October 15, 1977.
- Chairperson of District Prison Ministries - The chair recommended that Mr. Freeman-Jones continue as chairperson, and this motion was passed unanimously.
- District Finances - The chair motioned that all financial considerations be tabled until the next district business meeting and that any current expenses that have to be outlayed be submitted at that time for reimbursement retrospectively. The motion was passed unanimously.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
455 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.

The reading was given in order to the Society of the
Ladies of the City of New York, and the reading was
given in the new building. The reading was given in the new building.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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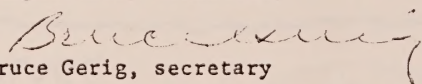
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5. Photographing of the Business Meeting - Rev. Lincoln announced that a photographer from New York University had come in who wanted to take some photographs. The chair suggested that perhaps those who did not wish to be photographed might sit to the chair's right and asked if there were any objections (none were voiced). A motion of approval for the photographs to be taken was passed unanimously.
6. Report on District Innovative Ministries - Mr. Smith asked if Rev. Nordstrom could give a report on this ministry at the next district business meeting, and the chair replied that he would ask Rev. Nordstrom if this could be done.
7. Greetings from Rev. Troy Perry - Rev. Perry gave warm greetings to the conference delegates and friends and invited them to the evening service at which he would preaching.
8. Filling of Other District Posts
 - a. The chair recommended that persons already serving in district posts be asked to continue if they are willing to do so, and no objection was raised.
 - b. UFMCC Commission on Government, Structures and Systems - Rev Deacon has been serving as district clergy delegate and Ms. Gralley as district lay delegate. Both said they were willing to continue serving and their names were accepted unanimously. For alternate lay delegate, Ms. Lupe Martinez (from Alpha and Omega MCC) was nominated and elected unanimously.
 - c. UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries - One delegate asked what the relationship was between this and the district prison ministries, and no one knew. It was not known if anyone was presently serving as district representative for the UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. The chair asked Mr. Freeman-Jones if he would be interested in serving in this post, but he declined.
 - d. Motion for a Nominating Committee - The chair asked if the delegates would like for it to present nominations for the rest of the posts, at the next district business meeting. Mr. Gerig spoke in favor of encouraging more lay person participation in decision-making in the district and offered a motion that a nominating committee of three clergy and three lay people be elected from the floor to prepare a slate of nominees for the posts that need to be filled, for presentation at the next district business meeting. He asked the chair if such a slate would be open for additional nominations at that meeting, and the chair agreed that this would be the case. Rev. Ragona suggested that 2 clergy and 2 lay persons be elected instead of three each, and this ammendment was accepted by Mr. Gerig. The motion to elect this nominating committee was passed, with 10 ayes, 6 nays, 1 abstention.
 - e. Election of a Nominating Committee - Rev. Ragona and Rev. Beers were nominated for the clergy members and were elected by 13 ayes, 5 nays. Mr. Jerry Cunningham, Mr. Bill Smith and Mr. Fred Bradford were nominated to serve as lay members; and Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Smith were elected by a vote of Cunningham-15, Smith-14, Bradford-10 (delegates voted for two persons each).
 - f. Other District Posts That Might Need To Be Filled
 - i. UFMCC Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order - The district delegate to this commission is appointed by the Board of Elders and is not elected or appointed from within the district.
 - ii. UFMCC Financial Advisory Board - Rev. Lincoln now serves as clergy representative and Ms. Audet at lay representative. Ms. Audet said she did not wish to continue serving. (This post is then referred to the nominating committee.)
 - iii. UFMCC Task Force on Women - The district women were asked to elect a representative in caucus following this business meeting.
 - iv. UFMCC Task Force on Men - The district men were asked to elect a representative in caucus following this business meeting.

- v. NE District Board of Home Missions - A lay representative needs to be elected. Rev. Lincoln made a motion that this representative not be on the slate to be drawn up by the nominating committee, and this motion passed with 9 ayes and 5 nays. Rev. Ragona offered a motion asking that action on this matter be tabled until the next district business meeting so that inquiries could be made in the local churches as to who might be available to serve. Rev. Lincoln objected to the chair's acceptance of this motion and asked that its acceptance be decided by the floor; and the vote to sustain the chair's acceptance of the motion was passed by 13 ayes, 4 nays. The vote on the motion to wait until the next district business meeting to elect this lay representative was passed by 15 ayes, 5 nays.
9. Next Northeast District Conference and Business Meeting - Mr. Smith announced that MCC Hartford had offered to host the next conference, perhaps sometime in February, 1978. There was some discussion of dates, and Rev. Lincoln said that he would prefer that it not be during Lent. Since Ash Wednesday falls on February 8, it was suggested that the dates for the next conference be the weekend of February 3-4. This motion was acceptable to Rev. Deacon and MCC Hartford and was passed by the delegates unanimously.
10. Financial Support for the UFMCC Field Office in Washington, D.C. - Mr. Adam DeBaugh, UFMCC Social Action Director, reported that General Conference had only allocated \$50/month to his office for printing, expenses, etc., and that it was necessary therefore to raise additional funds for this ministry. He asked if our district could help. Because of lack of funds, for example, his office has had to fall behind in the printing of Gays on the Hill. The chair asked if this could be tabled until the next district business meeting, along with other financial matters, because of the recent restructuring of the district. Mr. DeBaugh said he would send the chair a letter with more information on this.
11. MCC Syracuse Anniversary - Mr. Freeman-Jones announced that on December 3, 1977, MCC Syracuse would be one year old; and he invited everyone to come up to celebrate with them that weekend. Fliers are available giving further information.
12. Change of Ministers at MCC Providence - A motion was offered that an applause of praise be given to Rev. LaFever who would be leaving MCC Providence and of welcome be given to Rev. Ragona who will be assuming the pulpit there November 1. The motion was passed unanimously and a loud applause was given.
13. Rev. LaFever made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, secretary

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF CHURCH LIFE*

by: F. JAY DEACON

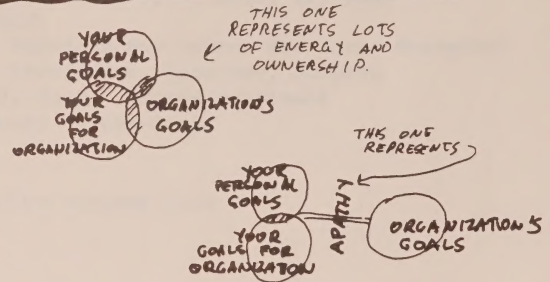
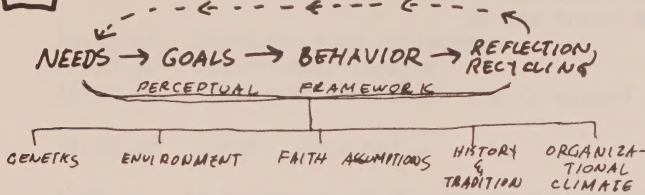
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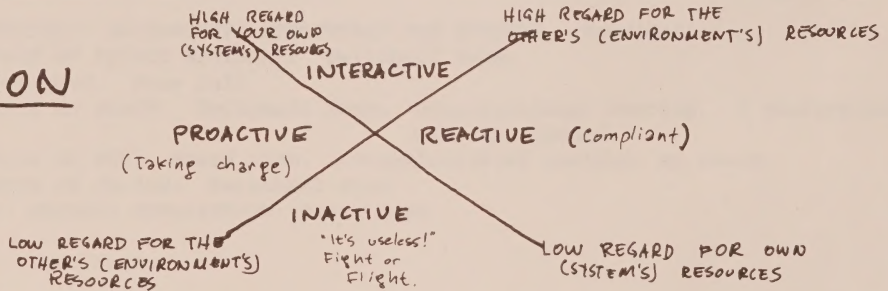


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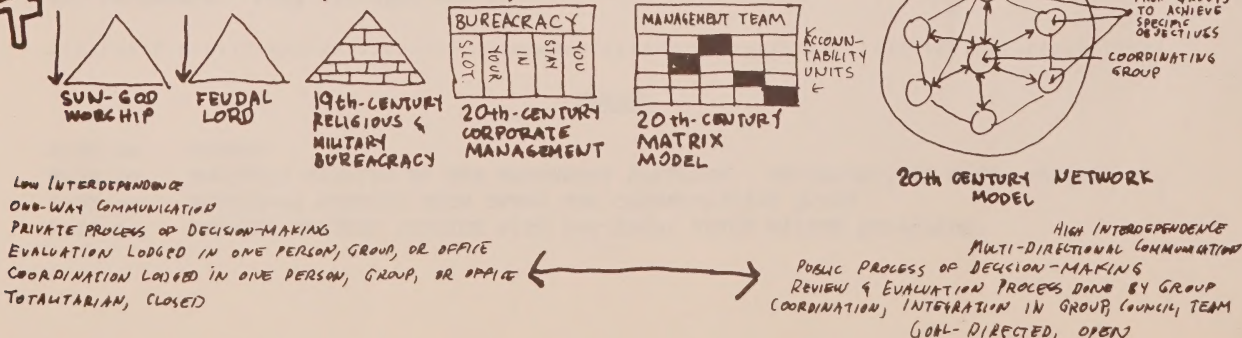
2 INTENTIONALITY



3 STYLE OF INTERACTION



4 PROCEDURE, PROCESS, STRUCTURE



SCHEDULE FOR THE Northeast District Conference

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, FEBRUARY 3-5, 1978

FRIDAY

- 11:00 am AN OPEN MEETING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
MCCCenter, 11 Amity street / 232-5110
- 8:00 pm REGISTRATION. Upstairs Lounge, MCCCenter. 232-5110, 522-5575.
til 12 Your registration badge gets you free into
SOMEWHERE COFFEEHOUSE with the music of John Calvi.

In addition, your conference registration badge will admit you free to The Warehouse Disco.

.....

SATURDAY

- 9:00 am REGISTRATION & COFFEE at ASYLUM HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
814 Asylum av / Phone MCC Switchboard, 522-5575, or AHCC, 525-5696
- 9:30 am INTRODUCTION TO PROGRAM. In Drew Hall.
- 10:15 am FIRST WORK SESSION. In Drew Hall: Hartford/New Haven, New York, Worcester,
Providence, Syracuse, Hispana
In the Twitchell Room: Boston/Merrimack
In the Board Room: Alpha-Omega
- 10:40 am FEEDBACK FROM OBSERVERS
- 11:00 am SECOND WORK SESSION
- 11:30 am GROUP PRESENTATIONS Not to exceed five minutes each
- 12:15 pm LUNCH. Drew Hall.
- 1:00 pm A "MEETING" OF THE "BOARD," WITH ANALYSIS
- 2:30 pm WRAPUP AND DISCUSSION
- 3:00 pm OPEN WORKSHOP: GOVERNMENT, STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS. Drew Hall.
TASK FORCE ON PRISON MINISTRY: Twitchell Room.
- 4:00 pm GSS: continued. Drew Hall
TASK FORCE ON WOMEN: Twitchell Room. Organizational meeting. A chairperson
will be elected.
TASK FORCE ON MEN: Board Room. Organizational meeting, as above.
- 5:00 pm TASK FORCE ON RACISM: Twitchell Room
PASTORS' SPOUSES ASSOCIATION: Board Room
- 6:00 pm SUPPER. Drew Hall.
- 7:30 pm WORSHIP. Twitchell Room. Preaching: Rev Gil Lincoln, MCC/New York,

After the service, your conference badge is good for admission to The Banana Disco or
The Warehouse. They are open til 3.

.....

SUNDAY

- 9:00 am COFFEE
- 9:30 am BUSINESS MEETING OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT. MCCCenter, 11 Amity street.
- 7:00 pm MCCCenter MEETING ROOM OPENS FOR CONTEMPLATIVE QUIET
- 7:30 pm EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE with Rev Elder NANCY WILSON preaching.

PROCESS OUTLINE FOR OBSERVERS

You'll be asked to analyze the group process assigned to you on the following bases:

Style of interaction

Faith assumptions

Individual needs and goals, and group needs and goals

Please listen carefully to the Introduction at 9:30 am on Saturday morning, noting the following points: (some of the following will NOT be included in that Introduction)

Style of Interaction

How group members interact is determined by many factors, of course, but during this conference, we'll be looking at the relationship between the group's style of interaction and how each member (and the group as a whole) perceives his/her/its own resources--knowledge, expertise, capabilities, etc--compared with the resources of others.

So we'll be talking the same language, we'll use these four terms to represent four styles of interaction:

DEFENSIVE/INACTIVE

DEVELOPMENTAL/INTERACTIVE

CONTROLLING/PROACTIVE

RELINQUISHING/REACTIVE

Here's what they mean:

DEFENSIVE/INACTIVE responses occur when your view of your own resources, your own ability to deal with the situation, is low, and when your view of the resources of those in your environment about you is low, as well: that is, when you don't think anyone, either your or the others with whom you are dealing, has what the situation demands, and you feel hopeless. You might express your defensive/inactive

response in either of two ways: by fight or by flight. That is, you may seem to "fight" by criticizing, griping, attacking, and insulting others, but you do so in such a way as to give away the fact that you don't believe any helpful resolution of the problem is possible. Further, your angry response guarantees no helpful resolution will be found. Or, you may just withdraw and flee the situation, failing to act at all. In both cases, your response results from your conviction that it's no use.

DEVELOPMENTAL/INTERACTIVE responses happen when you have a high view of your own resources and a high view of the resources of the others in your environment about you as well. An interactive style indicates that you think you've got a good deal to contribute to the situation, and that others do, too. You want to draw forth others' ideas, expertise, etc, and you want to offer your own. You esteem the ideas, knowledge, ability, etc of both about equally.

RELINQUISHING/REACTIVE responses happen when you think little of your own resources, ideas, expertise, etc in a particular situation, but think highly of the resources, etc of the others. You'll "go along" with what they say, or you'll let the situation itself call the shots--you'll just react. You'll comply with the judgment of others, because they know best--or you'll just go along with what happens.

CONTROLLING/PROACTIVE responses mean that you think highly of your own resources but not very highly of the resources of others to face the particular situation. You know what to do, so you take charge.

The diagram, included, may help you conceptualize these four positions.

It is sometimes assumed that the Interactive/Developmental style is necessarily and always the "best." Perhaps it IS the most desirable in terms of overall style, but not in every specific instance. Each style is appropriate in those situations that call for it. What is important is to develop a full repertoire of responses and to be adaptable enough to suit the response to the occasion. So please comment on the appropriateness of the responses you observe.

Faith assumptions

How you interpret, categorize, and assign meaning to the data you have depends on your faith assumptions: what you take most seriously, without reservation. What you really believe in. In decisionmaking, one's perceptions of a situation are conditioned by one's faith assumptions, and it is important to identify them. Conversely, the decisions you make and the things you do speak symbolically of your faith assumptions and reveal them. It's essential to be up-front, honest, and conversant with those assumptions. Not the "formal" ones you may say you believe, but your real ones. Until you are honestly in touch with what you really believe about life, your own actions will not be understandable to you.

Needs and Goals

Everyone has needs, which are translated into goals. These goals become behavior. But most of these needs and goals are unconscious. Most of us have hidden agenda in our lives, hidden even to ourselves.

Clearly, it is important to become conscious of our real needs so we may consciously choose our own goals and the behaviors and actions that will lead us to the fulfilment of our goals. Most of what each of us does is intentional, or purposeful. But few of us are very conscious of our own intentionality.

A group has goals, too, designed to fulfil the needs of its members. But if the members are not in touch with their own needs and goals, the group's officially stated goals are probably not very honest or realistic. If a group's members' real goals are not reflected in the stated goals of the group, apathy results.

It's the question of motivation. What's in it for you? How does this organization help fulfil my personal goals and needs? How can we resolve this problem in such a way as to satisfy (1) my goals for myself and (2) my goals for the organization?

When questions as honest as these can be asked and answered, it is possible to negotiate a set of goals a whole group can share.

HOW THE DAY IS DESIGNED, AND WHAT YOU'LL BE ASKED TO DO:

If you are assigned to an actual church group, in the morning, you'll probably find it easier to discuss the styles of interaction you see: the styles of individuals, and the style of the group as a whole. The operative faith assumptions and the needs and goals motivating people are more hidden, and perhaps the best you can do is ask the group to try to identify those faith and motivation factors involved in what they've been doing.

If you are assigned to be an observer for the mock boards in the afternoon roleplays, you are hereby given permission to make gratuitous assumptions! Besides commenting on the styles of interaction you see, please feel free to make authoritative declarations about the faith assumptions and motivation operative in the members' participation in the "board meeting." The items on our board agenda are made up, so the faith assumptions and the motivations you observe might as well be made up too!

If you are assigned to be a Moderator of one of the four "Boards", we're asking you to play a role. You'll be asked to perform consistently in one of the styles of interaction described earlier. But just what style that is will be revealed only to you, until the exercise is completed.

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, May 20, 1978 - Boston Conference

A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 7:10 p.m. at the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston, by Rev. Edward Hougen, district coordinator and chair of the meeting. All lay delegates to the session were requested to register with the district secretary so that their names would be on the voting roll.

B. Seating of Delegates

1. Report on payment of district tithes - The chair asked the district treasurer if churches in the district were up-to-date in payment of their tithes to the district. Ms. Audet reported that all were, except MCC Hartford that is behind for six months (full tithe for November and December, 1977, and for May, 1978; and partial tithe for October, 1977, and for February and March, 1978) and for MCC New York that is behind for three months (October, November, and December, 1977). A motion was offered that the delegates from these churches be seated, even though their tithes were outstanding; and the "ayes" carried it. The district secretary said, however, that he would like to call on chartered churches in the district to set a good example for newer churches by trying to pay up on their back tithes as soon as possible.

2. Secretary's roll of registered delegates

From MCC Boston.....	Rev. Edward Hougen*		Mr. Robert Stevens
From Alpha and Omega MCC....	Rev. Dee Jackson.....		Mr. Emmett Watkins
From MCC Hartford.....	--		--
From MCC Hispana.....	Rev. Jose Mojica.....		--
From MCC New York.....	Rev. Shelley Hamilton**.....		Mr. Chuck David
	Rev. Karen Ziegler		Mr. Chuck McCrea
			Mr. James Ricketson
From MCC Providence.....	Rev. Marge Ragona.....		Mr. William Mencer
	Rev. Michael Nordstrom		
From MCC Syracuse.....	--		Mr. Henry Yokel
From MCC Worcester.....	--		Mr. Kenneth Barr

Seated as district officers: Mr. Bruce Gerig, district secretary; Ms. Gloria Audet, district treasurer; and Ms. Jean Gralley, lay representative to the Northeast District Board of Home Missions.

* - District coordinator; ** - Assistant district coordinator.

C. Preliminary Reports

1. District secretary's minutes for the last business meeting - The chair noted that a correction should be made on page 4, item 5 of the February 5, 1978 minutes; the record of the vote should read "13 against and 8 for" rather than the other way around (on the vote to adopt a ceiling of \$15 for the registration fee that could be charged for a district conference). The secretary concurred with this change and a motion was passed unanimously to accept the minutes as corrected.
2. District treasurer's report - Ms. Audet handed out copies of the district financial report for the last quarter (2/3/78 - 5/19/78; See Appendix A). The chair noted that the district had a balance in both its escrow and working funds and so was in good shape financially. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and was passed unanimously.
3. District coordinator's report - Rev. Hougen reported that during the past quarter he had visited three churches (Alpha and Omega MCC, MCC Hispana, and MCC Worcester) and had preached in all three. Rev. Margaret Hougen ended her service at MCC Worcester in March, 1978; and Ms. Gloria Audet was selected as worship coordinator

A. The first part of the book is devoted to a general introduction to the subject of the book. The author discusses the importance of the subject and the scope of the book. He also discusses the organization of the book and the methods used in the research.

The second part of the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of the theory of the subject. The author discusses the various aspects of the theory and the methods used in the research. He also discusses the relationship between the theory and the practice of the subject.

The third part of the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of the practice of the subject. The author discusses the various aspects of the practice and the methods used in the research. He also discusses the relationship between the practice and the theory of the subject.

The fourth part of the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of the future of the subject. The author discusses the various aspects of the future and the methods used in the research. He also discusses the relationship between the future and the theory and practice of the subject.

The fifth part of the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of the conclusion of the subject. The author discusses the various aspects of the conclusion and the methods used in the research. He also discusses the relationship between the conclusion and the theory and practice of the subject.

The sixth part of the book is devoted to a detailed discussion of the bibliography of the subject. The author discusses the various aspects of the bibliography and the methods used in the research. He also discusses the relationship between the bibliography and the theory and practice of the subject.

until the pulpit could be filled. Rev. Shelley Hamilton has since been called to serve at MCC Worcester as interim pastor, beginning in June. A motion made to accept the district coordinator's report was passed unanimously.

4. Report from chairperson, district Commission on Innovative Ministries - Rev. Michael Nordstrom, chairperson, presented a written report (See Appendix B) describing the nature of the innovative ministries in the Northeast District and outlining the work he has done during the past year. Rev. Hougen asked delegates to look over the report so that they could vote on accepting it later in the session.
 5. Report from the district Task Force on Men - Mr. Gerig, whom the chair had asked at the last business meeting to help get this group going, reported that the Task Force on Men had met earlier in the day, had had a good discussion covering a range of questions, and had elected Mr. Paul Paoletti (MCC Providence) as district representative to the UFMCC Task Force on Men and as head of district activities in this area. A motion was made to accept this report and was passed unanimously.
 6. Report from the district Task Force on Women - Rev. Marge Ragona, district representative to the UFMCC Task Force on Women, reported that the women had met earlier for a good discussion and had set up for themselves three goals for the months ahead: (a) to organize more women's activities throughout the district, such as retreats and outings; (b) to give more attention to children's needs at district conferences and to the development of Christian education materials for churches, and (c) to look at the needs of churches where women are a very small minority. A motion was made to accept this report and was passed unanimously.
- D. New Business - The chair asked, on behalf of the district secretary, that a written copy of all resolutions and recommendations be given to him as they are made, to save time and insure accuracy of wording in the minutes.
1. Election of alternate clergy representative to the UFMCC Commission on Government Structures and Systems - A recommendation was made by Ms. Gralley that since Rev. Deacon was anticipating a call to MCC Chicago, perhaps it would be wise to elect an alternate clergy representative to this important Fellowship commission. Rev. Hougen said he wished to ask a procedural question: should such an office be voted on only by the clergy delegates? Ms. Gralley replied that she thought this would be the correct procedure. The names of Rev. Marge Ragona and Rev. Karen Ziegler were offered by clergy from the floor, and Rev. Ziegler was elected by a vote of Ragona-3, Ziegler-4.
 2. Vote on the Innovative Ministries report (See C, 4, above) - A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the report from Rev. Nordstrom, on his work in innovative ministries in the Northeast District.
 3. Transfer of scholarship money to a Prison Ministry fund - Mr. Jerry Cunningham, member of the Fellowship Task Force on Racism, presented this resolution: "The Task Force on Racism requests that the \$86.05 in the Scholarship Fund be transferred to the Prison Ministry Fund to provide for Bible study materials for inmates in prison in our district." He explained the reason for this was that the Task Force on Racism did not anticipate that it would be raising any more funds for scholarship purposes. The chair suggested that since there was no prison ministry fund at present, a vote should be taken on reopening this fund. A motion was so offered and was passed by a majority of "ayes." Then a vote was taken on the motion for the transfer of money and it passed with a majority of "ayes."
 4. Resolutions from the district Board of Institutional Ministry - Bill Smith, district

representative to the UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministry, presented two resolutions:

- a. Proposal for a Prison Ministry service in the Northeast District churches - "The Northeast District Board of Institutional Ministry recommends that the churches of the district designate one Sunday between now and the October conference as a Prison Emphasis Sunday." He added that members of the board would be most willing to provide resource people, informational materials and suggestions for holding such a service. Rev. Hamilton asked whether this was a recommendation or an injunction. Rev. Ragona answered that it should be understood as a recommendation; churches who are interested in this ministry will support this valuable work in the district. A motion was made to accept this motion and the "ayes" carried it.
- b. Proposal for a Prison Ministry offering to support the work in the district - "The Board of Institutional Ministry recommends that a special offering be taken during the Prison Emphasis Sunday service in each church to provide for the expansion of the MCC prison ministries in the Northeast District and that a minimum of ten percent of that offering be sent to the district Board of Institutional Ministries to help defray costs of printing, mailing, and travel of members to various churches." Mr. Smith noted that the members of this board are: Ms. Gloria Audet, Ms. Connie DiCenzo, Mr. Phil Eberle, Mr. Bob Freeman-Jones, and himself. Mr. Ricketson said that he did not feel any plan should be made in advance and then imposed on the churches but that plans for a prison emphasis should be worked out individually with each church. Rev. Nordstrom replied that he felt this was an idea but not a mandate placed on the churches. A motion was made to accept this resolution and passed 13 for and 4 against.

(Session was recessed for dinner, then was called to order again by the chair.)

5. Report from the Northeast District Lay Council (Office of Lay Concerns) - Ms. Jean Gralley, chairperson of this council, presented three resolutions to the session to be voted on and two recommendations which, she said, the Lay Council simply wanted written into the minutes as expression of lay opinion.
 - a. Any lay person may request a copy of business session minutes - "The minutes of any Northeast District business session shall be available free of charge to any member of the district who requests a copy of the district secretary." A motion was made to accept and pass this resolution and the "ayes" carried the vote.
 - b. Any lay person may speak at any district business session - "Any member of any church in the Northeast District shall be able to speak at any district business session, within reasonable limits of time and relevance; however, only delegates shall be able to vote." A motion was made to accept and pass this resolution and the "ayes" carried it: Rev. Hougen asked what was meant by "reasonable limits of time and relevance" and Ms. Gralley suggested that such would be at the discretion of the chair. Rev. Nordstrom asked how MCC members would be identified as such, and the chair replied that a person would be recognized as a member if she or he was listed on a church's membership roll.
 - c. The district shall publish a lay person newsletter - A four-page quarterly newsletter shall be published under the direction of the lay representative to the Northeast District Board of Home Missions, including: (i) news and ideas submitted by the Lay Council contact people reporting from each of the churches, (ii) decisions made by the Board of Home Missions and other district bodies, and (iii) discussion of important Fellowship issues for lay people." Ms. Gralley commented that this was to help lay people keep in touch within the district, and enough

copies would be sent to each church so that everyone could take a copy home. Ms. Gralley requested that \$50 be made available from district funds to pay for the first two issues, which she estimated would cover the costs. A motion was made to pass this resolution and provide the \$50 and the "ayes" carried it.

- d. A spiritual retreat conference is requested for the near future - "The lay people of the Northeast District, realizing the value of spiritual renewal, recommend that a district conference in the near future be planned as a spiritual renewal conference." The district secretary asked whether this would be a non-workshop conference, and Ms. Gralley replied that the make-up of this conference would be at the discretion of the church hosting it.
- e. Northeast District churches are requested to hold congregational forums - "It is recommended that Congregational forums be held in the local church as an event apart from Congregational meetings. These forums would not be for business but for discussion of local concerns in an informal atmosphere." A motion was made and passed by "ayes" to accept the preceding report from the Lay Council.

E. Reports from the Churches

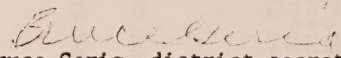
1. MCC Boston - Mr. Robert Stevens reported that MCC Boston had been involved in a variety of social activities in recent months, including an April 1st demonstration at the Boston Public Library protesting the arrest of a large number of gay men there. The group also participated in the Gay Community News variety show and an April 27 fund-raising for gay rights. Rev. Ed Hougen fasted at the court building as part of the "Fast for Human Rights," May 10-12.
2. Alpha and Omega MCC of Brooklyn - Mr. Emmett Watkins announced that Alpha and Omega is very interested in trying to expand a program for the handicapped, that tapes are now being made of all services for those who cannot attend, and that the church has been working hard all year on a program called "Operation Chartered Church" and that his group planned to apply for approval for chartering from the Board of Home Missions this coming October.
3. MCC Hartford - Mr. Clyde Proch, church clerk, commented that his church had had some troubles with its treasurer writing checks and then not mailing them. He announced that Rev. Deacon would be leaving MCC Hartford for MCC Chicago and that during the "Fast for Human Rights" Rev. Deacon had fasted at the city hall in Hartford. The church is also working on drafting gay rights resolutions for presentation to the city council.
4. MCC Hispana - Mr. Hiram Pulzan explained that MCC Hispana is interested in expanding their outreach to nongays as well as gays, and are having some nongay visitors come to services. They are interested in witnessing to all people that God loves them and that they need to come back to God.
5. MCC New York - Rev. Shelley Hamilton said that MCC New York had moved its offices to a new area where it has begun operating a community center called the Triangle Gay Community Center (because it is located in a triangular-shaped building). MCC New York rents out space to 8-9 other groups, and more requests are coming in. She said she hopes this may be an example to other gay groups in the area as to what can be done. Rev. Lincoln has taken a leave of absence for at least a month, due to illness, and she will be acting pastor until she leaves to assume the pulpit at MCC Worcester (then Rev. Ziegler will become acting pastor). Most of the technical work for the new layout was done free of charge by a gay architect. The space was originally a third floor walk-up backroom bar but now has been completely revamped.

6. MCC Providence - Ms. Belle Pellegrino remarked that MCC Providence had provided for a courthouse watch and fast, May 10-12. MCC Providence now has 37 members and is planning to apply for chartering in October. The members have planned a number of fund-raising projects and tried a gay gong show. They have begun a Sunday school in the church and have an active prison ministry. Rev. Ragona added that some members of the church for three weeks had attended a gay murder trial to see to it that the gay attendants and witnesses were treated fairly and that their rights were protected. She said it really had an impact on how they were treated by the court, and she recommended that churches try to attend "gay trials" if possible.
7. MCC Syracuse - Mr. Henry Yokel said that his congregation leafleted a Jack Wertzen rally, where a videotape of Anita Bryant was shown. In April, MCC Syracuse set apart its first deacon, Ms. Mary-Lib Whitney. In May the congregation was invited to join with a local Lutheran church for the Ascension Day services. Its prison ministry is expanding.
8. MCC Worcester - Mr. Kenneth Barr said he hopes that this would be the last conference his church would have to say that they are "going through a period of waiting." At present they are waiting for Rev. Hamilton to come to them, who has accepted a call to come to MCC Worcester.

F. Closing Business

1. Next district conference - The chair announced that the next district conference would be October 20-22 in Providence, Rhode Island.
 2. Prayer for ministers who are ill - The district secretary asked if a prayer might be offered for Rev. Lincoln and Mr. Freeman-Jones, both of whom are quite ill. The chair asked Mr. Gerig if he would lead the prayer, and all joined in praying for their swift healing.
 3. Location of the May 1979 district conference - Mr. Emmett Watkins from Alpha and Omega MCC said that his church would like to host the May, 1977 conference; but then Ms. Mary-Lib Whitney from MCC Syracuse said that they thought they had requested this month to host the conference. She commented that "May is the only month up north when district conference is scheduled when we don't have snow." The chair suggested that perhaps Syracuse should have the May conference since Alpha and Omega had hosted a more recent conference, but that a final decision should wait until October to see if MCC Syracuse is able to handle such an undertaking. Alpha and Omega MCC asked to have the October, 1979 district conference if the May, 1979 date were decided in favor of MCC Syracuse.
 4. Providence district conference theme to be "spiritual renewal" - Rev. Ragona announced that her group had decided to use the theme which the Lay Council requested, for their upcoming district conference in Providence, October, 1978.
 5. Thanks to the host church - Rev. Ziegler asked that thanks be given to MCC Boston for the creative and hard work that went into this conference. Everyone applauded.
- G. Motion to Adjourn - A motion was offered to adjourn and Rev. Hougen lead in closing prayer. Meeting adjourned around 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, district secretary

APPENDIX A

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT
SECOND QUARTER

2/3/78 - 5/19/78

BAIANCE ON HAND 2/3/78		\$723.81	
INCOME:			
Tithes		\$491.24	
District Conference Collection		139.93	
Women's Task Force		2.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$633.17	633.17
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE			\$1,356.98
EXPENSES:			
Escrow		\$100.00	
Working:			
Telephone	\$203.42		
Travel	310.15		
Service Charges	7.50		
#Gay Christian	14.60		
Innovative Ministry	200.00		
Copies	10.26		
TOTAL WORKING	\$745.93	745.93	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$845.93	845.93
BAIANCE ON HAND 5/19/78			\$511.05
BAIANCE BY FUND:			
Escrow	\$167.03		
Working	141.72		
Scholarship	86.05		
Women's Task Force	116.25		
TOTAL	\$511.05	511.05	\$511.05

*Loaned \$100 for travel of Rev. Ragona to Council of Churches,
Status of Women.
#Per District Conference 2/5/78, Gay Christian Fund in amount of
\$14.60 to be paid to Rev. Deacon to close Fund.

Respectfully Submitted
May 19, 1978
Gloria J. Audet, Treasurer NED

APPENDIX BState of Rhode Island
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

May 20, 1978

TO: The District Conference of the
DEPT: Northeast District - UFMCC
FROM: Reverend Michael S. Nordstrom
DEPT: Innovative Ministries Commission
SUBJECT: SPRING '78 REPORT

Beloved in Christ,

At the last District Conference, you requested that I prepare a written report so that you might better understand the nature of Innovative Ministries. Attached is an overview of my actual work in this past year.

Here, I would like to share with you what your contribution to Innovative Ministries has made possible. The total financial contribution of the Northeast District to Innovative Ministries from September '77 through the end of May '78 has been \$225.00. These monies have been used, at my discretion, to meet specific needs of individuals with unique special needs for which there has been no other source of income.

Your commitment has been witnessed, and matched by an individual Southern Baptist Church in Centerdale, Rhode Island. No, I do not have control of their treasury, yet, but, that Church has absorbed another \$336.00 in special needs for individuals in our Community who are Handicapped.

The importance of this lies not in the dollar and cent contribution to this work of another Church, but, that your commitment to continue an important area of Ministry has born fruit in that another denomination is currently exploring how to develop a similar Ministry.

In order that you might better understand the significance of this, I would like to share with you that I had been invited to plan the Worship Experience that took place on April 23rd of this particular Church as part of Rhode Island College's "A Journey With the Handicapped". I had been invited to preach, and to invite all of the Handicapped Ministers in Rhode Island (5) to participate in that Service. I prepared the Service and a listing of those I had invited to participate.

I was at our Eastern Minister's Conference when a call came to my office from the Pastor of that Church. He told my boss that his Church would have to withdraw their invitation to use their building because of my denominational affiliation. That Service, as I wrote it took place. The Cost: My Absence.

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The students with whom I have worked over this past year made my presence and therefore yours known by going in my place. That Pastor later apologized as did several other Clergy in the City of Providence. The individual who preached in my place was the Reverend Dr. Paul Gillespie - Executive Minister of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches.

Thank you again for sharing with me that I may share with others your love care and concern for many that are considered the least of God's Children!

In the Love that is Christ,

Reverend Michael S. Nordstrom
18 Shaw Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02904
(401) 272-8482

May 5, 1978

TO: The Reverend Edward T. Hougen
District Coordinator
The Northeast District - UFMCC

FROM: Reverend Michael S. Nordstrom
Peer Counselor With Handicapped Students
Office of the Dean of Students
Rhode Island College

RE: OVERVIEW OF FUNCTIONS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 1977 - '78
AND RELATIONSHIP TO MY FUNCTION AS A MINISTER WITHIN THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Per your request, following you will find a brief overview of my functions on the Campus of Rhode Island College in this past year.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:

1. Identify Handicapped Students and their needs in the Campus setting.
2. Develop programs to meet those needs.
3. Develop "AWARENESS" through programming of the need of our students to have equal opportunity for a College Education. Primarily directed to Administration, Faculty, Staff and Non-Handicapped Students.
4. Learn Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehab Act of 1973. Evaluate the College in view of the Law, and implement changes where there was non-compliance.

PROGRAMING:

1. Brought Reverend Harold Wilke, a Presbyterian Minister born without arms, to the Campus. First Baptist Church in America, and Metropolitan Community Church benefited by his preaching for them.
2. Brought Mr. Albert Pimentel of Gallaudet College in Washington to speak on the Campus and at First Baptist Church in America.
3. Developed: "A Journey With The Handicapped" - a week long Symposium dealing with concerns and issues of the Handicapped on our Campus. This week included speakers, exhibits, an Art Show, a Puppet Show written for this event, panel discussions, etc. It concluded with a reception for the Handicapped at the home of the President of the College. This event was planned so that it could be moved from one location to another - particularly with our Churches in mind.
4. Planned programs for each of our 4 Dormitories on concerns and attitudes of non-Handicapped towards the Handicapped.
5. Working with the Clergy in the Community to develop ways that the Handicapped can enter their buildings. Working with these same individuals to develop innovative Worship with the Handicapped.
6. Ran a 2 hour a week Rap Group for the Handicapped as well as non-Handicapped Students on our Campus. Result: formation of their own: "Handicapped Awareness Organization." I have been named as the Faculty Adviser to this group.

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GRANTS:

1. Obtained monies to keep my office open in December when the monies allocated ran out.
2. Developing Grant Applications for a Comprehensive Program for the Handicapped at Rhode Island College as a Model Project that again could be duplicated in various parts of the Country.
3. Review of Grants that could fund some projects in the Homosexual Community. Learning where the source of monies are and sharing that with members of the Gay Community.

COUNSELING:

1. I see 32 students a week for intensive counseling. The counseling may include: Academic Counseling; Counseling for corrective surgeries; Program accessibility as well as accessibility to the physical plant; Human Sexuality; Family counseling of Handicapped Students and their spouse and/or parents.
2. Faculty about means to integrate the Handicapped into the normal class room setting.
3. Counseling non-Handicapped Students about ways and means of integrating the Handicapped into the total Student Life on our Campus.

TEACHING:

1. I taught a course through our third curriculum on "Psychology and the Handicapped".
2. I have developed classes in the following areas for credit: Physical Education and the Handicapped; Art and the Handicapped; Communications and the Handicapped; and Sign Language. These classes do not segregate the Handicapped, but, ensure that locations are accessible. I will be the instructor for the Class in Communication and the Handicapped. I will select the teachers for the other classes.
3. I have lectured in the areas of Homosexuality; Human Sexuality; and Handicapism at 23 Colleges and Universities in the Northeast. These include: Rhode Island College; Brown University; Bryant College; Assumption College; Providence College; Barrington College; University of Rhode Island; etc.

EDUCATION:

1. I have been a full-time student at Rhode Island College.
2. My average is 4.0.
3. I have received a total of 18 units of credit because I am a Minister through our Cooperative Education Program.
4. Each semester, I must appear before a Board of 15 Faculty and Administrators for 6 hours to defend what I have learned through experience. It is not a simple learning experience!

CONCLUSION:

For many years I have searched in vain for ways and means of funding my work within our Churches. I have also attempted to locate individuals who are both Handicapped and Gay. I have searched for programing ideas that would attract them to our Churches. Working with our 183 students

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has given me new insights on how to reach the Handicapped within our Community and ideas that could fund such programs. It is my conviction that affiliation with a College or University for those wishing to work in the field of innovative ministries is essential.

Sure, it will take time away for the Community we are called to serve, but, in that process, we will be better able to meet those needs.

Reverend Michael S. Nordstrom
18 Shaw Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02904
(401) 272-8482

MCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL
First Meeting, Boston Conference, May 20, 1978

A. Introductory Matters

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order by Jean Gralley, lay representative to the NED (Northeast District) Board of Home Missions and chair of the meeting. Thirty-two people were present, and the meeting began at 4:30 p.m.
2. Opening prayer - Was offered by Jean Gralley.
3. Procedures of this meeting - Jean explained that this first meeting of the NED Lay Council would be a totally open meeting and that all lay people held a vote. Someone asked if clergy could sit in, and Jean said yes although they do not have a vote.
4. Taking of minutes - Bruce Gerig, district secretary, said that he had agreed to take minutes of the meeting; and if members at the meeting would like a copy each of these minutes, they should sign the register being passed around, with their names and addresses.

B. Proposed Resolutions

1. Making available NED business session minutes - The district secretary offered this resolution: "The minutes of any NED business session shall be available free of charge to any member of the district who requests a copy of the district secretary." Jean explained that in the past there had been some discussion as to whether or not non-delegate members should be sent copies.
 - a. Discussion:

"I feel it is important for lay people to know more about MCC, including what goes on at district conference business meetings."

"A problem in the past has been that often only the pastor has a copy of the minutes in the church office that is available; but with this resolution any member who desires could request her or his own copy."

"Are copies of these minutes made available to other MCC districts?" - The district secretary replied that that there is an exchange of minutes between the districts and also there are exchanges of church magazines throughout the Fellowship. At least there are some lines of communication open at this time.

"Would this resolution include all past minutes?" - Bruce said that he had copies going back about four years and could supply copies of these, if desired.

"There is a problem of finding out what happened in the past. In our church when the pastor left the last time, he took all of the minutes with him; and we don't know what has transpired."
 - b. Vote: PASSED unanimously.
2. Speaking privilege in NED business sessions - This resolution was offered: "Any member of any church in the NED shall be able to speak at any district business session, within reasonable limits of time and relevance; however, only delegates shall be able to vote." The district secretary commented that many of our lay people are very committed to MCC and put in a lot of time, energy, prayer and money, and should be able to offer an opinion at a business session if they really feel vitally on a matter being discussed. The delegate comes and votes but this does not assure that when a lay person wishes for an important idea to be expressed on the business floor, that it is. Someone said to him that if this motion was passed, then meetings would just go on and on; but there are procedural ways of restricting this, e.g. the chair could say that a matter would be discussed for 15 minutes or no one could speak more than 3 minutes on an issue. Unfortunately, the idea of talking to delegates in advance is

somewhat of a problem because agendas given out in advance are always somewhat cryptic and are very difficult to have opinions on and also a lot of things happen right on the floor of a business session.

a. Discussion:

"I think people who speak should write down what they have to say to condense it."

- Another person answered that there was usually no time to do this.

"I'm against the resolution because I can see long sessions that run on and on with heated discussions. Also, I think the concerns of lay people can be better handled through the Office of Lay Concerns." - Bruce commented that he was concerned that two people came up to him after the Hartford Conference business session and said that they wished they could have spoken.

"I like the idea of the congregational forum which we've tried in MCC Boston; there any person who cared enough to come can say anything if he or she wants."

"I think anyone who has something to bring up should contact the district coordinator through his or her pastor, prior to coming to district conference."

"Sometimes an idea doesn't come to mind until one gets into a business meeting, so I favor this motion. Also, I don't think there should be a great gap between the hierarchy and the lay."

"I think if there is a heated debate about something, then the issue needed that discussion before a decision is made."

"How could we limit people from speaking? Some people just love to hear themselves talk and are not concise nor coherent." - Someone else answered that that should be the privilege of the chair.

"I think often a person has a difficult time conveying what another person feels that he or she would like conveyed about an issue."

b. Vote: 18 for, 9 against, 4 abstentions. Motion PASSED.

3. Publication of a NED lay newsletter (first motion) - This motion was offered: "A four-page bimonthly newsletter shall be published under the direction of the lay representative to the NED Board of Home Missions, including: (1) news and ideas submitted by Lay Council contact people reporting from each of the churches, (2) decisions made by the Board of Home Missions and other district bodies, and (3) discussions of important Fellowship issues for lay people." Bruce commented that some districts are already putting out such a newsletter, e.g. the Southeast District publishes a 8½"x14" newsletter which carries news, ideas and information on what is happening in the district.

a. Discussion:

Jean said that she would like to feel that there was a real need and desire for such a paper because it would be extra work for her; but if there were such, she would be willing to take on the project.

"Is this an overlap of the business session minutes?" - Bruce said he thought not since those minutes cover only business conducted in a business session. Hopefully this would help the flow of good ideas from one church to another. One church could say this is a good idea and this is how it worked for us.

"I think this is a duplication of effort as each church has its newsletter."

"How would this be funded?" - Bruce said that we would have to ask the district to provide for the payment of at least two issues, and that he thought two issues could be put out for around \$25 per issue.

"I would prefer it coming out once a month."

b. Vote: 13 for, 16 against, 3 abstentions. Motion DEFEATED.

4. Publication of a NED lay newsletter (second motion) - One member said that he would like to propose a motion like the one above except that it be quarterly rather than bimonthly.

a. Discussion:

"Of course, every church has its own newsletter that describes socials and other activities but these are only mailed out one copy to each church, and it goes to the pastor and the church office and lay people never see it. This newsletter is an attempt to get news into the lay person's hands; it is a copy you can take

home with you.

"If this came out quarterly, would it be published before or after the next district conference?" - Jean said she would try to put it out at the most advantageous time.

"I have been involved in MCC for over a year now and consider myself quite an active member, yet I have no idea what has been going on in the district until I came here to this conference. I want to keep these contacts that I have made here, but I think an issue every two months would be too frequent and a financial drain on the district."

"This is a good idea because while it is difficult to get a hold of the pastor to find out this news, I could now go into the office and just pick up a copy of this newsletter."

Jean asked, "Do I understand that this is the same motion as Bruce's, except that it would be a quarterly rather than a bimonthly publication?" - Yes.

b. Vote: 23 for, 6 against, 4 abstentions. Motion PASSED.

5. Call for a spiritual renewal district conference (first motion) - This motion was offered: "At least one district conference a year shall be a non-workshop spiritual renewal conference, with the aim of giving our members a special opportunity to share an intensified sense of God's presence in their lives." Bruce told of a friend he had who went off to a monastery to experience a weekend of silence, and she got away from all the horns and muggers in New York; and when she came back, it was like she was a different person. She had time to think, to pray, to read her Bible, to look inside herself, and she had a real spiritual experience. "I don't know whether the silence approach would work for all of us, but I would like to get away once in a while and have someone come in like Troy Perry who can speak, inspire me, challenge me. We could all partake in all kinds of different spiritual experiences.

a. Discussion:

"I have only been a Christian for three years and I think this, whether one is a new or older Christian, could really help to deepen our faith."

"I am not opposed to the motion per se but I am concerned that we only have three district conferences a year. We constantly have new people coming into our churches, we have new problems to discuss, and I don't think we should get locked into having one every year." - Bruce suggested maybe we could request one every fourth conference but not every year.

"Wasn't there some talk of having a fourth district conference this summer?" - No, Jean replied, this matter had not been passed.

"We held a spiritual retreat in Hartford; they can be on the local church level. I think we come away from all of the district conferences feeling spiritually renewed. I think there are too many conferences anyway."

"What does 'nonworkshop' mean?" - Bruce said that perhaps the workshops on so many other aspects on MCC could be distracting when you're really trying to look inside yourself spiritually. Jean asked if Bruce would accept this as a friendly amendment to delete "nonworkshop" and he replied that perhaps an information comment could be made that workshops might distract from such a conference.

"I think spiritual development should take place on the local level; on the district level it would not be as meaningful an experience."

"I appreciate the intent of this motion but I wonder how you can maintain the spiritual nature of such a large group unless it is highly structured."

"I feel that I come to district conference and always go away with my mind and experience having been stretched and somehow more so than on the local level. What I wonder is, can we find new things on the spiritual level that can help us to grow and experience a closer feeling of God. I think such a spiritual renewal conference could be like Operation Resurrection, except you're trying to analyze yourself spiritually and your relationship to God and what that means."

"I think it would produce a high for one day that would be it."

"I think it's a good idea but are we ready for it?"

b. Vote: 10 for, 13 against, 9 abstentions. Motion DEFEATED.

6. Call for a spiritual renewal district conference (second motion) - "The lay people of the Northeast District, realizing the value of spiritual renewal, recommend that a district conference in the near future be planned as a spiritual renewal conference."
- a. Discussion: (Preceding the above motion:)

"We could recommend that our churches plan a spiritual renewal in the future for their congregations and that we feel that there is a need for this. Or, even a district conference on spiritual renewal would be good, except we should not put restrictions or procedures on it, only say that the lay people of the NED would value such a retreat at some time."

(There are various suggestions made for the wording of the new proposal.)

"If a host churches is going to have a district conference and it would really like to have a spiritual retreat type of conference, then they should be responsible for how it is planned, not the district. They would arrange for the speaker(s). But we can let churches know that we value this sort of thing.

(More reworking of the wording.)

"Would workshops at such a conference deal with spiritual renewal?" - Jean said she thought that should be left up to the host church.

(The final wording of the proposal, above, was suggested.)

- b. Vote: PASSED unanimously except for 1 abstention.

7. Call for churches to have Congregational forums - "It is recommended that Congregational forums be held in the local church as an event apart from Congregational meetings. These forums would not be for business but for discussion of local concerns in an informal atmosphere." Jean said that this was another recommendation that we could make, not a resolution that we ask the business session to pass but simply made as an expression of lay opinion in the district.

- a. Discussion:

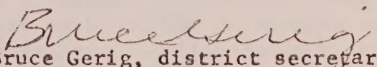
"I know in our church we have Congregational business meetings but there is always so much on the agenda that we never have time to talk about the issues that are on our hearts and heads. So we decided that we would have Congregational forums, meetings with no agendas, so we can get together and just talk without the pressure of business. It works very well."

- b. Vote: PASSED unanimously.

C. Closing Matters

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, district secretary

Northeast District- UFMCC
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2-15-82 - 5-15-82

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Cash Balance as of 2-15-82		\$1,323.81
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Total Income		1,555.40

EXPENSE:

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Telephone	27.77	
Printing and Postage	15.00	
NED Commission on Race Relations	<u>500.00</u>	
Total Expenses		1,011.77
Cash Balance 5-15-82		<u>\$ 1,867.44</u>

BALANCE BY FUND:

Working Fund:	\$ 587.99
Reserve for General	
Conference Travel:	150.00
Escrow:	980.40
Women's Task Force	<u>149.05</u>
Total Cash Balance:	<u>\$1,867.44</u>

Fund for Northeast District Commission on Race Relations
Financial Statement - 2-15-82 - 5-15-82

Income	\$ 540.62
Direct Funding	<u>540.62</u>
Balance	<u>0.00</u>

Submitted by
Julie Benavides

DISTRICT CO-COORDINATOR'S REPORT
Spring District Conference: Boston, MA.
The Rev. A. Stephen Pieters

Dear Friends:

First, let me apologize for missing the first half of the District Conference here in Boston. As I said at the District Business Meeting in February, I had already contracted with Dignity/Hartford for Friday evening, to give a lecture on "Varieties of Sexual Expression: The Christian Response to Kink." And Saturday I was in Providence to celebrate my brother Rick's heterosexuality again, as he was remarried in a Quaker service. The question has crossed my mind as to whether Rick would miss an important medical conference to come celebrate a relationship of mind! Nevertheless, I did feel it was important to show my support at the wedding, and I hope you all understand.

Since the last District Conference, I have made brief visits to MCC Boston, New Haven, Albany, and Providence. With the exception of Boston, these trips were all in conjunction with the Rev. Elder Troy Perry's visit. My trip to Boston in mid-March was to meet with the Rev. Marge Ragona and the rest of the Vestry. I believe that it was a successful meeting, clarifying expectations, and improving communications.

I was extremely pleased with Troy's visit as our Liaison Elder. I believe that he was as anxious about it, as many of us were. At least in the part of the visit which I shared, there were a lot of good discussions with Troy, and I believe there was a great deal of care taken to really listen to each other. In Albany, it was good to see the Lesbian/Gay Community Center: it's one of only three centers in the country that are actually owned by the Lesbian/Gay community. Impressive! They held a large group discussion with Troy before a potluck supper. This took place on Saturday, May 1. The day before, Troy arrived in New York City and met with members of MCC Harlem. From what Troy said, it sounded like there was open and lively discussion. On Sunday in New Haven, there was a brunch with about 10 members of the group, and there was a large crowd in the main sanctuary that afternoon to hear Troy preach. We also had a large crowd to hear Troy preach in Hartford that evening. We arrived in Providence Monday with TV newscameras waiting, as well as a good lunch. At this point, I handed Troy off to George, who took charge of the rest of his visit. Several times during the weekend, Troy referred to people in the Northeast as "God's Frozen Chosen." When I left him in Providence, he said he had to rethink that one.

I regret deeply that MCC Syracuse has closed. A faithful, small group hung on there for quite a while, and I was hopeful that we would be able to find a worship coordinator by this month. But the group decided the week after our Last District Conference to close, and disburse the funds and property of the group. They did not consult the District or the Board of Home Missions on this. They informed us after the fact, so there was really nothing we could do but accept their letter as presented.

The UFMCC Eastern Clergy Conference was a good experience for many of us who were there. There were good worship experiences, organized and led by the Rev. Renee McCoy; an excellent speaker, James Nelson; and confrontation with several basic issues, which made for a stimulating and thought-provoking conference. To me, one of the most important things that happened was the community and the caring that went on among the women, and the

beginnings of community and caring among the men. The concept of embodiment I believe helped us all get a hold again on the call to touch and care for each other, being open to each other's rage and sorrow, as well as our joys and celebrations.

On a personal level, the prospect of turning 30 this summer has been making me ask a lot of basic questions (like "what am I doing here?") I feel way over-extended, and I've been turning over lots of different options in my head, to change that, to extricate myself somehow from the situation. I candidated out in Los Angeles for two very different churches, but I wasn't really sure that's that what I wanted. Well, God seems to be telling me to stay in Hartford. I turned down one church in LA, and the other turned me down. So I'm working on changing the situation in Hartford. CPE has ended, so that gives me back two days a week, and I'm dropping off of a couple of Boards and Committees, so I can pay more attention to pastoring and Coordinating. We're planning an "Operation: Resurrection for June in Hartford, and I've started a new Deacon's Training Class, and I've already got the Deacon Candidates working on creative worship services for our new Sunday morning service. So things are picking up again; answers to some questions are becoming apparent. But I'm still asking lots of questions. "Lead on, O Cloud of Yahweh..."

We've experienced some real blessings in the Northeast District in the past quarter. We've also experienced some real difficulties here. Blessings and curses: a recurrent theme from way back! What to make of it all? The blessings seem to me to point us outward, to share the goodness of God's love with more and more people. The difficulties seem to point to a real need for strong leadership, both lay and clergy, who will be able to facilitate growth and ministry in a mature and intentional fashion. We need mature and committed leadership who are willing to take big risks to get new groups, and some of our older groups firmly grounded in their communities.

And that brings us to another problem. It's very difficult to get good leadership from outside the District to move here, and one of the main reasons is the lack of moneys on our part to move anyone here. I really feel like my hands are tied in getting new leadership into the District, because we can't move them here. Strategies, anyone?

In this non-General Conference summer, I am hopeful that I will be able to get around to many of the groups in our District. If you are interested in having me preach, or be there for a special occasion, please try to let me know a couple of months in advance, if possible, so that I can make plans to cover the Hartford pulpit. I look forward to visiting with each of our groups in the not-too-distant future.

May God, Who loves us, bless us in every part!

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Pieters
(The Rev.) N. Stephen Pieters

Co-Coordinator of the Northeast District of UFMCC

DISTRICT CO-COORDINATOR

REPORT

Northeast District
Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

May 23, 1982
Boston, MA

Rev. George S. McDermott

The past three months have been exciting and inspirational as I began my responsibilities in this district as your Co-Coordinator with Steve Pieters. It has provided me with opportunities of visiting both clergy and layity alike in several of the congegations and to gain even a small sense of what is happening within the community. As the months progress it is my hope that I can visit each of the congregations in the district for no other purpose than to share in their joys and victories in their communities and to be ready to minister where ever and whenever possible. Primarily, it has been a real hope and desire of mine to be able to serve in a pastoral capacity to both clergy and layity alike throughout the district knowing that many feel the loneliness of isolation and separation.

Since MCC Providence and Boston and Portland had been asked to do a worship service at the 2nd New England Gay/Lesbian Conference in conjunction with the 9th Maine Gay/Lesbian Symposium, it became an excellent opportunity to represent the Northeast District of UFMCC in an outreach to other groups both in Maine and the other parts of New England. The conference took place on the weekend of March 26-28, 1982, in Orono, Maine on the campus of the University of Maine. Overall the conference proved quite valueable and gave me the chance of letting others in New England know about MCC and some of the congregations presently worshipping together. The unfortunate experience came when the time and place for worship were not as available as planned. Although, disappointing it became apparent that in the coming years we shall have to make an ever increasing effort to be visibly present at these conferences and to make sure that a worship experience is provided for those who so desire.

The Yale University Gay and Lesbian community had their Gay/Lesbian Awareness Days the week following Easter culminating in a rally in front of the Yale library and a dance that evening. Originally, plans had been made for a workshop around the whole issue of the handicapped person within the Gay and Lesbian community. However, when it came down to the final plans the workshop had been overlooked. However, all was not lost; for along with Chet Jones I had the privilege of sharing in the rally that Saturday afternoon, April 17 along with nearly 15 other speakers, all of whom were exciting and actually interesting to listen to for nearly 2½ hours. Most exciting of all was the number of persons who gathered there on the green before the rally to participate and make their support known both with in the Yale community but throughout the city of New Haven. This again was carried out that night with the dance that brought out nearly 250 persons.

It only goes to say that if we are willing to work together great things can happen for our community. On Sunday I preached and celebrated Holy Communion for the congregation in New Haven and enjoyed the privilege of fellowshiping with the congregation. It also gave me the chance of getting to know Chet and to share in his warm and gracious hospitality. Since I was already in the whole area of New Haven and Hartford, I took the opportunity of going on up to Hartford for their evening worship service. Unfortunately, we missed the preaching, but shared with them in their service of Communion. Going out to the restaurant by members of the Lesbian community was a wonderful delight since it also took care of some of the necessities of food that about that time were feeling needed. I have been around other congregations who have shared in this kind of fellowship following the service at a nearby restaurant, and have always found that it is a good way to bring the day to a close sharing about the table with each other within the congregation.

May has been one busy month with the arrival of our *laisson* Elder, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry to the district and visiting most of the churches. The only regret for me is that Brother Troy could not have remained in the district longer and thus covering our congregations in Rochester and Buffalo. It is my sincere hope that arrangements can be made for Brother Troy to return and both of these congregations have the privilege of having him for a few days. I believe that it can also help a congregation find a closer relationship to the Fellowship when an Elder visits. I will say that during Brother Troy's visit to Providence I got to know him better, and hopefully he got to learn that I actually sometimes jump off steps, not fall off them. At least this time I had the upper hand when I had to lead him through Providence rather than he always directing me. We made sure he got plenty of press coverage from a local talk show on one of the radio stations (WEAN) to an interview on WJAR-TV, Channel 10, on the noon news program. On the Saturday following his visit, May 8, a very fine article appeared in the Providence "Journal" on the religion page with an accompanying picture. Interestingly enough, the picture appeared directly below that of the Catholic Bishop for this state. After a trip to Boston with a meeting for a supper and talk with the members of MCC, Boston we returned Brother Troy to New York for his flight on May 6. While in New York we had the chance of attending a Bible study at one of the homes of a former member of MCC, New York. We had the chance of talking about the church and the integration of those 10 that night into programs which met their needs. It was a fine experience and it is my wish that Brother Troy might return within the next year to visit and to be able to really touch base with the district and some of its needs and concerns.

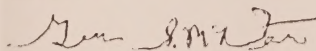
On Sunday, May 16, I visited with Harlem, MCC and experienced a joy of the Spirit in worshipping with them that afternoon. I want to say that knowing what our Sister Renee McCoy is doing there means only great things with the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those people and how they will effect all of Harlem. Praise God for them. That evening was spent worshipping with MCC, New York and listening to Steve Carson preach. One of the thoughts that came down to me that day, amidst my intense traveling,

that those of us who have the privilege of traveling about the district certainly have the privilege of hearing many others who have tremendous talents in preaching and bringing the message of Christ to those that seek the church out. We, indeed, are all ministers of the Gospel.

Clergy conference in April proved to be exciting, but above all a process of growth for many of us who were there. James Nelson brought a wealth of experience and knowledge in the whole area of sexuality, but contributed even more as he brought the group to working through some of their own griefs and anger. For some it was difficult, but for most it was a sense of the Holy Spirit working through and with each person to where many began to get in touch with themselves and with others. We began to feel and then to grow.

This is an exciting district, but most of all a wonderful and Spirit filled district. Much has gone on here, but there is much that shall happen when it may serve to awaken others to the reality that Northeast District is not strange, but just the working of the Christ through the workings of the Holy Spirit. We are not afraid any more and in that reality we grow. However, growth can take place when we care. As we move about the district and as we take the calls our first and foremost concern is to be present, to be a pastor to you, and for you to know that because of the Christ within us we care and we love you. If others can sense this love and care of the entire district then others will want to join us--others who are looking for the workings of the Holy Spirit and to know that they have joined a body of people given to working for the care and concern of each other. We are here to be with you, to share and to offer you healing. The truth of the growth is the fact that already there are persons in other communities wanting an MCC and we want to be there. However, that can only happen when we reach out to one another, support one another, and be willing to give as we have been given. God bless each of you and may you know that we are here together and I, as your Co-Coordinator, will be willing to listen and to come if necessary to be with you.

Submitted,



Rev. George S. McDermott,
Northeast District Co-Coordinator

Northeast District- UFMCC
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2-15-82 - 5-15-82

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Balance	<u>0.00</u>

Submitted by
Julie Benavides

MENU FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE

FRIDAY EVENING:

Small egg salad sandwiches
Coffee/tea

SATURDAY BREAKFAST:

Cinnamon rolls or whole wheat brioche
Orange or cranberry juice
Fresh apples or oranges
Coffee/tea/milk

SATURDAY LUNCH:

Make-your-own salad bar
Homemade soups: Egg drop
Vegetarian soup
Homemade bread
Coffee/tea/milk
Fortune cookies

SATURDAY EVENING:

Shepherd pie
Cheese/spinach/rice casserole
Carrot/raisin salad
Biscuits
Coffee/tea/milk

SUNDAY BREAKFAST:

Cinnamon rolls or whole wheat brioche
Orange or cranberry juice
Fresh apples or oranges
Coffee/tea/milk

(Margarine, honey, jelly available for all homemade breads listed)

Sheila Rosecrans
Chair
Food Committee

The majority of the food shown requires little preparation time, with the exception of the homemade breads and rolls. Almost all the food can be served by the individuals themselves. You can see that either meat-eating or vegetarians have choices at almost every meal. Most of food will be served in disposable dishes. First estimate for total costs (including disposable dishes) is \$225, (if 100 people).

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SCHEDULE

May 21-23, 1982

Thurs-Fri. District Review Committee

Friday

7:00pm Registration, Old West Church
8:00-9:30 Worship (Lay led)
9:45-11:00 Board of Home Missions
11:45 All persons taking T's must leave for T stops.

Saturday

8-9:00am Breakfast, registration, Old West Church
9:30-10:30 Introduce Program
10:30-12:00 Response Teams meet
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-1:30 Initial Report from Response Teams
1:30- Response action
3:00-4:00 Faith Fellowship Order, Discussion
4:00-5:00 Lay Concerns, Clergy Sharing
5:00-6:00 Deacons/Student Clergy
6:00-7:00 Dinner
7:00-7:30 Final reports from Response Teams
7:30-8:00 Church Reports
8:00-9:30 Worship
9:30- Women's Sharing
11:45 All persons taking T's must leave for T stops.

Sunday

8:00-9:00 Breakfast, Old West Church
9:00- Business Meeting (approx. 2 hours)
7:00 Evening Worship

DISTRICT CO-COORDINATOR'S REPORT
Spring District Conference: Boston, MA.
The Rev. A. Stephen Pieters

Dear Friends:

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Respectfully submitted,

(The Rev.) A. Stephen Pieters
Co-Coordinator of the Northeast District of UPMCC

DISTRICT CO-COORDINATOR

REPORT

Northeast District

Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

May 23, 1982

Boston, MA

Rev. George S. McDermott

The past three months have been exciting and inspirational as I began my responsibilities in this district as your Co-Coordinator with Steve Pieters. It has provided me with opportunities of visiting both clergy and layity alike in several of the congegations and to gain even a small sense of what is happening within the community. As the months progress it is my hope that I can visit each of the congregations in the district for no other purpose than to share in their joys and victories in their communities and to be ready to minister where ever and whenever possible. Primarily, it has been a real hope and desire of mine to be able to serve in a pastoral capacity to both clergy and layity alike throughout the district knowing that many feel the loneliness of isolation and separation.

Since MCC Providence and Boston and Portland had been asked to do a worship service at the 2nd New England Gay/Lesbian Conference in conjunction with the 9th Maine Gay/Lesbian Symposium, it became an excellent opportunity to represent the Northeast District of UFMCC in an outreach to other groups both in Maine and the other parts of New England. The conference took place on the weekend of March 26-28, 1982, in Orono, Maine on the campus of the University of Maine. Overall the conference proved quite valueable and gave me the chance of letting others in New England know about MCC and some of the congregations presently worshipping together. The unfortunate experience came when the time and place for worship were not as available as planned. Although, disappointing it became apparent that in the coming years we shall have to make an ever increasing effort to be visibly present at these conferences and to make sure that a worship experience is provided for those who so desire.

The Yale University Gay and Lesbian community had their Gay/Lesbian Awareness Days the week following Easter culminating in a rally in front of the Yale library and a dance that evening. Originally, plans had been made for a workshop around the whole issue of the handicapped person within the Gay and Lesbian community. However, when it came down to the final plans the workshop had been overlooked. However, all was not lost; for along with Chet Jones I had the privilege of sharing in the rally that Saturday afternoon, April 17 along with nearly 15 other speakers, all of whom were exciting and actually interesting to listen to for nearly 2½ hours. Most exciting of all was the number of persons who gathered there on the green before the rally to participate and make their support known both with in the Yale community but throughout the city of New Haven. This again was carried out that night with the dance that brought out nearly 250 persons.

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It only goes to say that if we are willing to work together great things can happen for our community. On Sunday I preached and celebrated Holy Communion for the congregation in New Haven and enjoyed the privilege of fellowshiping with the congregation. It also gave me the chance of getting to know Chet and to share in his warm and gracious hospitality. Since I was already in the whole area of New Haven and Hartford, I took the opportunity of going on up to Hartford for their evening worship service. Unfortunately, we missed the preaching, but shared with them in their service of Communion. Going out to the restaurant by members of the Lesbian community was a wonderful delight since it also took care of some of the necessities of food that about that time were feeling needed. I have been around other congregations who have shared in this kind of fellowship following the service at a nearby restaurant, and have always found that it is a good way to bring the day to a close sharing about the table with each other within the congregation.

May has been one busy month with the arrival of our laisson Elder, the Rev. Elder Troy Perry to the district and visiting most of the churches. The only regret for me is that Brother Troy could not have remained in the district longer and thus covering our congregations in Rochester and Buffalo. It is my sincere hope that arrangements can be made for Brother Troy to return and both of these congregations have the privilege of having him for a few days. I believe that it can also help a congregation find a closer relationship to the Fellowship when an Elder visits. I will say that during Brother Troy's visit to Providence I got to know him better, and hopefully he got to learn that I actually sometimes jump off steps, not fall off them. At least this time I had the upper hand when I had to lead him through Providence rather than he always directing me. We made sure he got plenty of press coverage from a local talk show on one of the radio stations (WEAN) to an interview on WJAR-TV, Channel 10, on the noon news program. On the Saturday following his visit, May 8, a very fine article appeared in the Providence "Journal" on the religion page with an accompanying picture. Interestingly enough, the picture appeared directly below that of the Catholic Bishop for this state. After a trip to Boston with a meeting for a supper and talk with the members of MCC, Boston we returned Brother Troy to New York for his flight on May 6. While in New York we had the chance of attending a Bible study at one of the homes of a former member of MCC, New York. We had the chance of talking about the church and the integration of those 10 that night into programs which met their needs. It was a fine experience and it is my wish that Brother Troy might return within the next year to visit and to be able to really touch base with the district and some of its needs and concerns.

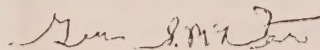
On Sunday, May 16, I visited with Harlem, MCC and experienced a joy of the Spirit in worshipping with them that afternoon. I want to say that knowing what our Sister Renee McCoy is doing there means only great things with the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those people and how they will effect all of Harlem. Praise God for them. That evening was spent worshipping with MCC, New York and listening to Steve Carson preach. One of the thoughts that came down to me that day, amidst my intense traveling,

that those of us who have the privilege of traveling about the district certainly have the privilege of hearing many others who have tremendous talents in preaching and bringing the message of Christ to those that seek the church out. We, indeed, are all ministers of the Gospel.

Clergy conference in April proved to be exciting, but above all a process of growth for many of us who were there. James Nelson brought a wealth of experience and knowledge in the whole area of sexuality, but contributed even more as he brought the group to working through some of their own griefs and anger. For some it was difficult, but for most it was a sense of the Holy Spirit working through and with each person to where many began to get in touch with themselves and with others. We began to feel and then to grow.

This is an exciting district, but most of all a wonderful and Spirit filled district. Much has gone on here, but there is much that shall happen when it may serve to awaken others to the reality that Northeast District is not strange, but just the working of the Christ through the workings of the Holy Spirit. We are not afraid any more and in that reality we grow. However, growth can take place when we care. As we move about the district and as we take the calls our first and foremost concern is to be present, to be a pastor to you, and for you to know that because of the Christ within us we care and we love you. If others can sense this love and care of the entire district then others will want to join us--others who are looking for the workings of the Holy Spirit and to know that they have joined a body of people given to working for the care and concern of each other. We are here to be with you, to share and to offer you healing. The truth of the growth is the fact that already there are persons in other communities wanting an MCC and we want to be there. However, that can only happen when we reach out to one another, support one another, and be willing to give as we have been given. God bless each of you and may you know that we are here together and I, as your Co-Coordinator, will be willing to listen and to come if necessary to be with you.

Submitted,



Rev. George S. McDermott,
Northeast District Co-Coordinator

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
May 21-23, 1982

(Time available)

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER H: _____
ADDRESS _____ W: _____
_____ APT. NUMBER _____

Description of House (Example: 3-Story white house, third from corner on left side.)

TYPE OF SPACE AVAILABLE: Bed/Couch _____ FLOOR (Need sleeping bag) _____
Single _____ Double _____

NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE _____

PREFERENCE: Male _____ Female _____ No Preference _____ Smoker _____
Non-Smoker _____ Don't care _____
Couple _____ Single _____ Children _____ No Children _____

TRANSPORTATION: Will supply auto transportation each night. _____
Will need auto transportation each night. _____

*T Directions: Line _____ Stop _____ Bus _____

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: _____

(Please draw simple map on reverse.)

PERSON(S) ASSIGNED _____ CHURCH _____

(If you have already arranged for persons to stay with you, or wish particular persons assigned to you, please put their name(s) on the line marked "Person Assigned.")

* * * * *

Dear Member or Friend of Boston MCC:

We need your help in housing guests during our District Conference. If you are willing and able to help, please fill in the above form and return it to the church (MCC, 131 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA. 02114).

We thank you for your assistance, and hope you and your guest(s) enjoy each other and the conference.

Missy Ragona
Chair
Housing Committee

*T Fares: Train (unless way out) \$.75 Buses: \$.50. Some places will require both train and bus.

PAID HOUSING IN THE BOSTON
AREA

Cambridge YMCA/820 Massachusetts Avenue/Cambridge MA 02139
(617) 876-3860. S/\$15

Central Branch YMCA/316 Huntington Ave./Boston MA 02115
(617) 536-7800. [Men and Women] S/\$16 D/\$22

Boston YWCA/40 Berkeley Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 482-8850. S/\$19

Cambridge YWCA/7 Temple Street/Cambridge MA 02139
(617) 491-6050. S/\$21; \$25(pri. bath)

Milner Hotel/78 Charles Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 426-6220. S/\$31.70 D/\$37.00

Hotel Essex/695 Atlantic Avenue/Boston MA 02111
(617) 482-9000. S/\$30-40 D/\$40-50

Hotel Bradford/275 Tremont Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 426-1400. S/\$45 D/\$54

Copley Square Hotel/47 Huntington Avenue/Boston MA 02116
(617) 536-9000. S/\$48-52 D/\$60-66

Eliot Hotel/370 Commonwealth Avenue/Boston MA 02115
(617) 267-1607. S/\$48 D/\$58

Lenox Hotel/710 Boylston Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 536-5300. S/\$62-74 D/\$76-78

Holiday Inn/5 Blossom Street/Boston MA 02114
(617) 742-7630. S/\$72 D/\$82

57 Park Plaza Hotel (Howard Johnson)/200 Stuart St./Boston
(617) 482-1800. S/75 D/\$85

WELCOME TO BOSTON

MCC Boston welcomes you to the Northeast District Conference and hopes you will be comfortable. We regret that housing is as limited as it is, but hope you will bear with us and make yourself at home as much as possible.

Boston is a beautiful city in the Spring, and we hope you will take advantage of our central location to see some of the city. Immediately to our left -- facing Cambridge Street -- is the Government Center including the Federal Buildings and our City Hall. Behind them is one of the joys of Boston, Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall. Quincy Market has dozens of stalls with snacks, gifts, and gourmet foods. Please take time to walk through and sample some of what they have to offer. It would be a great place to have Sunday lunch before you leave.

WARNING ABOUT THE SUBWAYS

Please remember that all public transportation shuts down at about 12:30 a.m. This means the subway (the "T") and the buses stop running. If you miss the last subway and/or bus, you will have to take a taxi, and taxis are notoriously expensive in Boston. Be prepared. The T's begin running at about 7:00 a.m. on the weekends, so you should have no trouble getting to church. We hope you have no trouble getting home.

BARS, BATHS AND OTHER SUCH PLACES

There is one women's bar in town, "SOMEWHERE". Men's bars are listed in GCN, which you have a free copy of. Please note that Buddies, Chaps, Sporters and Pipeline have offered to admit people with their badges free of the entry charge.

IN EMERGENCIES

If you have any difficulty, please call the church phone number and we will help, if we can.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
of
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
May 21-23, 1982

131 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA.
523-7664

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR --
THE WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE FOR
PEACE AND JUSTICE"

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, WORLD HUNGER AND
CENTRAL AMERICAN LIBERATION

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

BOSTON

May 21-23, 1982

FRIDAY EVENING

7:00 -- Registration- Parlor

8:30 Worship - Sanctuary

You are welcome to use the sanctuary to visit and enjoy old and new friends. Please help yourself to snacks and drinks.

The subway system, the "T" shuts down at 12:30. If you are on a T line for housing, please be aware that you will have to take a taxi after that. If you need to make a bus connection at the end of the T you will have to leave earlier. Ask your host about travel arrangements, please.

SATURDAY

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 --- Introduction to Program
--- Presentation of Areas

10:30 - 12:00 Response Teams
1. World Hunger - Parlor
2. Nuclear Disarmament - Fellowship Hall
3. Central America - Kindergarten

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not return to the Parlor area, as a gay A.A. group will be meeting there. There will be a concert in the Sanctuary during the lunch hour.

1:30 - 2:30 Initial Reports from Response Teams - Fellowship Hall

2:30 --- Response Activities

2:30 - 3:30 Faith, Fellowship & Order Commission Parlor

4:00 - 5:00 Commission on the Laity Sanctuary

4:00 - 5:00 Clergy Sharing Parlor

5:00 - 6:00 Deacons Parlor Student Clergy Kindergarten

6:00 - 7:00 Dinner Fellowship Hall

7:00 - 7:30 Final Report of Response Teams

7:30 - 8:00 Church Reports

8:00 - 9:30 Worship

9:30 -- Women's Sharing

SUNDAY

8:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast Fellowship Hall

9:00 -- Business Meeting

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

You are welcome to stay and worship with us. MCC Boston is a warm and friendly church, and we welcome your participation in our regular church life.

Marge Ragone

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS MEETING
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
HARTFORD, CT. Feb. 19, 1982

The meeting began at 10:37 PM with a prayer offered by George McDermott, Pastor of MCC Providence.

The minutes were read and approved, after corrections offered by Rene' McCoy.

Shelley Hamilton spoke of her need to resign as Co-coordinator of the District. She mentioned her need for a year of rest after her seven years of serving MCC.

Church Reports:

- * Portland, Maine - nothing to report, not much happening there, they will continue until May and then re-evaluate their future.
 - * Boston, Mass. - They had a rough winter, but they are coming along.
 - * Hartford, St. - We are excited about this weekend's Conference, and folks have been busy making the banners for our walls, and the rebirth of our newsletter, and Steve is proud to announce that he has been asked to serve on the Mayor's Advisory Board.
- At this point Shelley said: "Your hair looks wonderful, Steve."
- * New Haven reported that they are financially solvent.
 - * New York reported that the city wants to sell the building to make condominiums.
 - * Harlem has started a Gospel choir. They have Kids day once a month. The treasurer says they are in the black. They are exploring the possibility of a Lesbian and Gay center in Harlem. They have been in existence for four months and they now want to get out of this 'low profile' and challenge the black churches on their stand on Gay Civil Rights. They now have four student clergy and Rene' would like to see District Churches invite them to their churches so they can learn to serve all people, not only black lesbians and gay men.
 - * Brooklyn has gone through some changes. However, it has not closed. They are losing their space on April 1st. Shelley has resigned as Assistant Pastor, and will ask that Pat Bumgardner be approved at the Business meeting. They will request a status change from Mission to Study Group status.
 - * Albany is alive and well.
 - * Worcester is down to four members. They will request movement from Mission to study group status.
 - * Rochester is alive and well, but covered with snow.
 - * Syracuse will be celebrating their 5th anniversary in September. They are in the black. They pushed back the starting time of the square dance group. They are looking for serious leadership, because MCC people as an 'act of faith' don't seem to respond.
 - * Buffalo had no one in attendance. Shelley received a petition for study group status, which will be acted on tonight.

The changes in status from mission to study group were approved for both Worcester and Brooklyn.

Pat Bumgardner was approved as Worship Coordinator of Alpha and Omega.

It was passed, with one abstention, to approve the status of Study Group for MCC Buffalo.

Sunday we need to elect a replacement for Shelley Hamilton, vote on a budget, and select a site for the May District Conference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Clyde W. Proch, MCC Hartford
Acting Secretary

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE FEB. 21, 1982
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

The meeting convened at 9:45AM.

Those present were: Steve Pieters, Clyde Proch, John Crowley, MCC Hartford; Steve Carson, Lay Rep; Janine Deitz, Judith Hemans, Susan Eenigenburg, Jill Thompson, Pat Lichty, Karen Ziegler, MCC New York; Dick Nottingham, MCC Syracuse; George S. McDermott, Billy Mencer, MCC Providence; Julie Benavides, Treasurer; Marge Ragona, Elizabeth Ragona, Edward Houghen, MCC Boston; Chet Jones, Larry Firrantello, MCC New Haven; Stuart ?, MCC Worcester; Emmett Wertham, MCC Harlem; Willie White, MCC Rochester; Belle Pellegrino, MCC Albany; Shelley Hamilton, Pat Bumgardner, MCC Brooklyn.

Bill Counts led us in an opening prayer.

Steve Pieters read the agenda. It was approved, with slight change in the order.

The minutes were read, and approved with minor corrections.

Election of the District Co-Coordinator. Nominees were Willie White and George McDermott. George was elected.

Election of the clerk. Clyde Proch was elected by acclamation as no one ran against me.

Steve Pieters read his report as co-coordinator of the Northeast District. He detailed his trips to Rochester, Syracuse, Providence and Worcester. He feels that Rochester has a strong foundation, which is a credit to the fine pastoral skills of Rev. Willie White. Syracuse continues to 'hang in there' in spite of the fact that they are desperately in need of a pastor. Shortly after Steve visited Providence, his father, who lives in Providence, fell and broke his hip, and during his hospitalization George McDermott visited him regularly, and Steve's father shared with him that George ministered to him far more effectively than his own pastor from the Congregational church. Providence is blessed to have the stable, mature leadership of George McDermott. The congregation in Worcester has decided to move from mission to study group status.

Chet Jones read his report as assistant district coordinator. He visited Portland, Maine and Brooklyn, New York in January. He asked people to avail themselves of his services. He is available.

Treasurer's Report - Julie reported that the working fund has \$465.44, the escrow has \$709.32, and the women's task force has \$149.05. She reported it is nice to have a surplus. She asked the churches to get their tithes in on time. It is hard for her to reflect which churches are in arrears when people wait until District Conferences to hand her their checks. Her report was approved.

The budget for 1982, a total of \$4200, was presented. Ed Houghen moved that we appropriate \$500 for race relations and make that money available immediately. This motion passed. The amended budget, for \$4700, was approved.

Lay Concerns - Steve Carson reported that they discussed guidelines for their budgeted monies. They elected Cindy Slater as alternate lay rep. They also felt a real concern for the election of district co-coordinator.

Race Relations Report - Rene' was not here and no report was submitted. Karen Ziegler reported that Los Angeles has been deducting designated monies for race relations from their budget for this, instead of adding to it.

The date for the Spring Northeast District Conference was discussed next. There was concern about the need to change the date of the Spring Conference in order to accomodate Troy Ferrys' attending, or to leave the conference at the regular weekend in order not to conflict with the New York Women's Retreat. Ed Houghen moved we accept the later date in May in Boston. The motion carried, with one abstention. The dates of the Spring Conference are May 21, 22, 23, 1982.

Old Business - there was none.

New Business - Ed Houghen moved we create a District Race Relations Commission. Passed.

Ed Houghen moved we elect Rene' McCoy as chairperson of the Race Relations commission. Passed.

There was discussion about planning the agenda for the Spring, Fall and Winter conferences of the District.

It was moved that the District continue to plan the agenda for the District Conferences. Passed.

There were many suggestions proposed for conference themes. The Spring conference in Boston will be on political, and world issues.

The October Conference in Providence will be a children's conference, planned and organized by the children in the Providence church.

The February conference will be on prayer and scripture, theological diversity and worship.

The May conference will be on nurturing and healing.

The women have suggested that time be set aside to consider the opportunity to share and heal in a meeting of their own and the conference on nurturing/healing will be a great opportunity to provide for this. It is obvious that some really beautiful healing and relating took place at the Women's workshop which the women would like to continue as an ongoing process.

Three Resolutions were considered:

- 1) Whereas we, the members of MCC Providence, feel the need for the NE District to pray together and to worship together as so to experience the diversity of our worship experiences and share in the job of worshipping together;
Whereas one of the aims of district conferences is to bring members together to renew their spiritual life; and
Whereas, as presently scheduled, we feel district conferences fail to meet this spiritual goal adequately,
BE IT RESOLVED that the NE District will schedule a worship service on Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday evening at all future district conferences and that Communion be available on Sunday morning at all future district conferences.
DEFEATED.

- 2) Whereas the NE District Conferences are to be open and accessible to all people,
BE IT RESOLVED that the location of all future district functions be held in buildings and in a form which are accessible to the disabled and handicapped, insofar as possible. Presented by Providence.
PASSED.

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vidence.
PASSED.

3) Whereas the work of Race Relations is crucial to the vision, nature, and practice of our ministry and Whereas, Rev. Rene' McCoy has worked for some years without salary and with very little Fellowship support and Whereas the present UFMCC austerity budget allows \$100 a month for postage, phone, and programming, which is only a fraction of the amount voted for the work of Race Relations by the General Conference and which eliminates the salary for Rev. McCoy intended by the General Conference and Whereas individual gifts to Race Relations are presently being subtracted from the \$100 sent to Rev. McCoy
BE IT RESOLVED that the NE District urge the Board of Elders to see that the \$100 budgeted for the work of Race Relations be sent to the chair of Race Relations every month and that designated gifts for Race Relations be sent in addition - regardless of the amount of the designated gift.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NE District commend the work of Race Relations to the Board of Elders and urge that this work be supported by them in every possible way, especially monetarily.
PASSED.

Exams are next week in New York, monitored by Karen Ziegler, and in Providence - monitored by George McDermott.

We will adjourn in the honor of Shelley Hamilton. May God Richly Bless her. Shelley has had a profound influence on many of us, and our lives have been richer having known her.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Clyde W. Proch
Clyde W. Proch
District Clerk

A MINISTRY FOR ALL
RACES-CREEDS-COLORS-SEXES-AGES
WITH A SPECIAL MINISTRY TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

Metropolitan Community Church
131 CAMBRIDGE ST., BOSTON, MASS. 02114
PHONE 523-7664 - 24 HOURS A DAY

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR SERVICES EACH SUNDAY AT 7 P.M.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SCHEDULE

May 21-23, 1982

Thurs-Fri. District Review Committee

Friday

7:00pm Registration, Old West Church
8:00-9:30 Worship (Lay led)
9:45-11:00 Board of Home Missions
11:45 All persons taking T's must leave for T stops.

Saturday

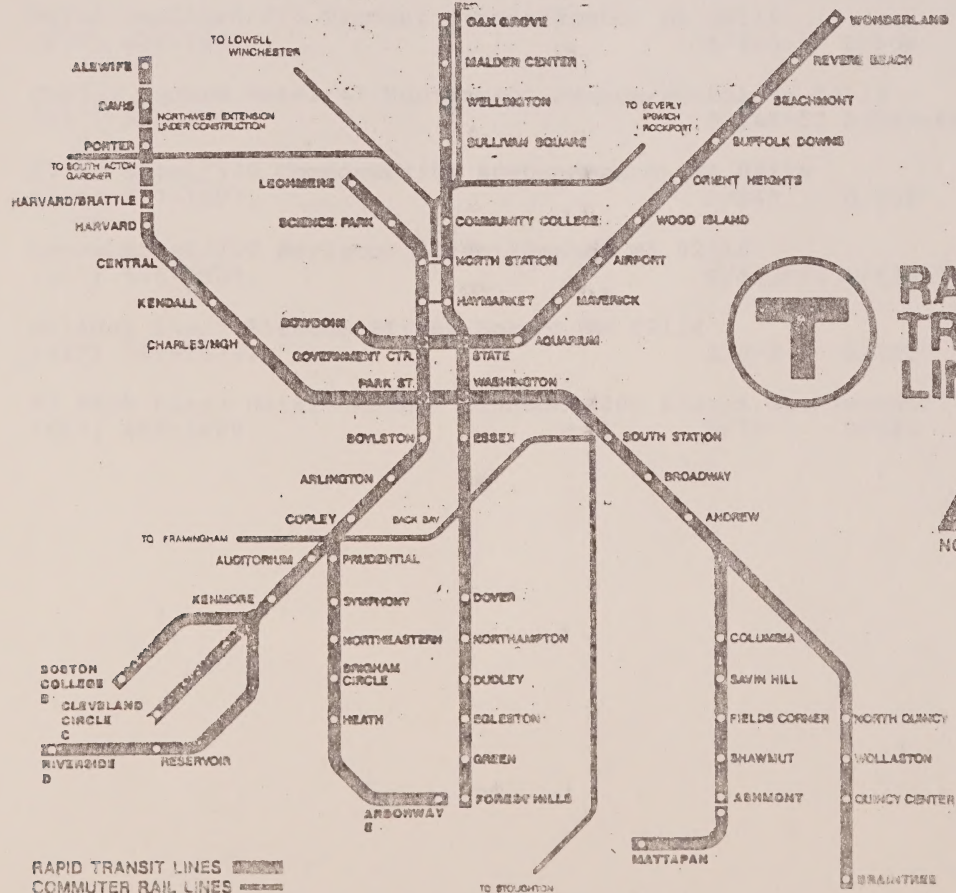
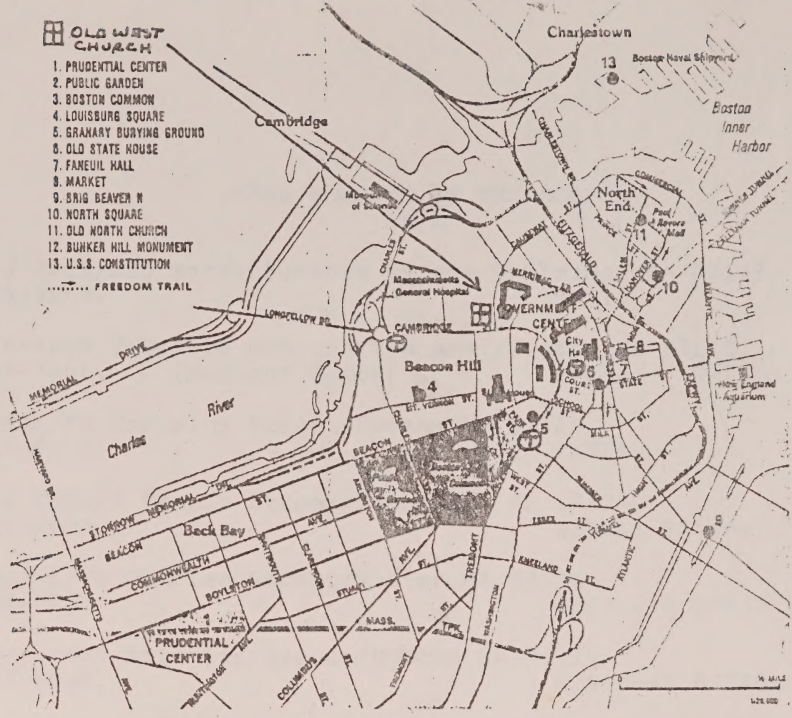
8-9:00am Breakfast, registration, Old West Church
9:30-10:30 Introduce Program
10:30-12:00 Response Teams meet
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-1:30 Initial Report from Response Teams
1:30- Response action
3:00-4:00 Faith Fellowship Order, Discussion
4:00-5:00 Lay Concerns, Clergy Sharing
5:00-6:00 Deacons/Student Clergy
6:00-7:00 Dinner
7:00-7:30 Final reports from Response Teams
7:30-8:00 Church Reports
8:00-9:30 Worship
9:30- Women's Sharing
11:45 All persons taking T's must leave for T stops.

Sunday

8:00-9:00 Breakfast, Old West Church
9:00- Business Meeting (approx. 2 hours)
7:00 Evening Worship

T MTA STOPS:
 CHARLES/MGH
 PARK ST.
 GOV'T. CNTR.

- OLD WEST CHURCH**
1. PRUDENTIAL CENTER
 2. PUBLIC GARDEN
 3. BOSTON COMMON
 4. LOUISBURG SQUARE
 5. GRAHARY BUYING GROUND
 6. OLD STATE HOUSE
 7. FANEUIL HALL
 8. MARKET
 9. BRIG BEAVER N
 10. NORTH SQUARE
 11. OLD NORTH CHURCH
 12. BUNKER HILL MONUMENT
 13. U.S.S. CONSTITUTION
- FREEDOM TRAIL



T
RAPID TRANSIT LINES



RAPID TRANSIT LINES
 COMMUTER RAIL LINES

PAID HOUSING IN THE BOSTON
AREA

Cambridge YMCA/820 Massachusetts Avenue/Cambridge MA 02139
(617) 876-3860. S/\$15

Central Branch YMCA/316 Huntington Ave./Boston MA 02115
(617) 536-7800. [Men and Women] S/\$16 D/\$22

Boston YWCA/40 Berkeley Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 482-8850. S/\$19

Cambridge YWCA/7 Temple Street/Cambridge MA 02139
(617) 491-6050. S/\$21; \$25(pri. bath)

Milner Hotel/78 Charles Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 426-6220. S/\$31.70 D/\$37.00

Hotel Essex/695 Atlantic Avenue/Boston MA 02111
(617) 482-9000. S/\$30-40 D/\$40-50

Hotel Bradford/275 Tremont Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 426-1400. S/\$45 D/\$54

Copley Square Hotel/47 Huntington Avenue/Boston MA 02116
(617) 536-9000. S/\$48-52 D/\$60-66

Eliot Hotel/370 Commonwealth Avenue/Boston MA 02115
(617) 267-1607. S/\$48 D/\$58

Lenox Hotel/710 Boylston Street/Boston MA 02116
(617) 536-5300. S/\$62-74 D/\$76-78

Holiday Inn/5 Blossom Street/Boston MA 02114
(617) 742-7630. S/\$72 D/\$82

57 Park Plaza Hotel (Howard Johnson)/200 Stuart St./Boston
(617) 482-1800. S/75 D/\$85

A Lay Person's Guide to District Conference

Let us be concerned for
one another, to help one
another to show love and
to do good, not neglecting
to meet together, as is the
habit of some, but encouraging
one another all the more...

Hebrews 10: 23-25



prepared by Steve Carson
Northeast District Lay Representative

?
X

First of all, what's a District?

A District consists of all churches (study groups, missions, and chartered churches) within a geographical area (defined by the Board of Elders). The Northeast District encompasses the states of New York and New England.

The authority of UFMCC is vested in the meetings of the General Conference, District Conference, and Congregational Meetings, in accordance with our By-Laws. Each District must meet at least once a year. Most Districts meet more than once.

What are the churches in the Northeast District?

As of this writing, there are ten:

Albany	New Haven
Boston	New York
Buffalo	Providence
Hartford	Rochester
Harlem	
Morning Star (Worcester)	

(MCC Hispana, while located in New York, is part of the Hispanic Americans District.)

This listing may change with the next District Conference. New works may apply to the District for recognition as a church, or sometimes churches must be disbanded.

What are the different levels of churches?

A Study Group is a group of indi-

viduals who have expressed an interest in joining the Universal Fellowship and are authorized by the District Coordinator and the Board of Home Missions, who designate a worship coordinator (who may be clergy or lay). Study Groups in the Northeast District are Albany, Buffalo, Harlem, Morning Star, New Haven, Rochester.

A Mission is a study group that has functioned for at least 3 months and is composed of at least 25 active persons and adequately supports itself or a study group that exists in an area of limited numerical potential and so has not reached 25 persons over the course of two years. Mission status is authorized by the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Elders.

A Chartered Church is a mission that has functioned for at least 3 months, is comprised of at least 35 members and can financially support a pastor and program of church activities. A charter is authorized by the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Elders. Chartered churches in this District are Boston, Hartford, New York and Providence.

How does the Northeast District compare with other Districts in the Fellowship?

Other Districts often have more churches, and larger churches. We are the smallest District in the U.S.-- the fewest churches, the least financial resources. Yet the Northeast District has a strong tradition of leadership in the Fellowship, especially in special ministries, journalism, race relations, and hymnody.



OK, so how does the District carry on its business?

The Board of Home Missions is composed of all pastors and worship coordinators in the District, and the Lay Representative. This Board directs the establishment, life and growth of study groups and missions in the District. It usually meets on Friday night.

The Lay Concerns Meeting is open to all laypeople in the District. Chaired by the Lay Representative, this meeting offers an opportunity to share with laypeople from other churches, to hear about Fellowship business, and to give input into the direction of the Fellowship and the District. (At the same time, there is also a meeting for the clergy of the District.)

The District Business Meeting, chaired by the District Coordinator, carries on the official business of the District. All missions and chartered churches have one clergy vote and one lay vote. Non-delegates are welcome to attend the meeting as observers.

Special Forums: The District is an important vehicle of decision-making in the Fellowship. Most Fellowship Commissions are based on one clergy rep and one lay rep from each District. Proposals for amending UFMCC By-Laws must be sponsored by a District Conference or a Fellowship Board or Committee or Commission. Through discussion at District Conference, proposals can better be examined and support tested before reaching General Conference. To this

end, District Conference may include Special Forums on these issues. Current discussion centers on the work of the Commission on Government Structures and Systems (GSS) which is revising Article V of the By-Laws, and of the Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order (FFO) which is examining how we speak about our faith in light of inclusivity and sexuality.

Offerings: The work of the District is supported by contributions from all churches in the District. The minimum contribution is 2%; many churches are moving toward 5%. The offerings taken at the Friday and Saturday evening worship services are a vital source of financial support for the work of the District.

Who are the officers of the District?

The District Coordinator is elected by the District to act as Moderator at all District Conferences, to act as the official representative of the Board of Elders within the District, and to see-- with the Board of Elders-- that every church in the District is supplied with a pastor or worship coordinator. The District Coordinator also chairs the Board of Home Missions.

Other District Officers include the Assistant District Coordinator, Treasurer, and Clerk.

How are laypeople represented at the District and Fellowship level?

The Lay Representative is elected at the Lay Concerns Meeting. The responsibilities of this position include:

- chairing Lay Concerns Meetings
- voting member of Board of Home Missions (only lay vote)
- voting member of District Business Meeting
- reports on Lay Concerns to Business Meeting
- represents the District on UFMCC Commission on the Laity and Commission on Government Structures and Systems (GSS)
- authorizes expenditures from Lay Concerns budget, to be used primarily for communicating and producing resources for the District
- official observer at General Conference

The laypeople of the District also elect a lay person to serve on the UFMCC Fellowship Finance Committee and on the Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order (FFO).

Each local church should elect a Lay Delegate who shall attend the Lay Concerns Meeting and the Business Meeting at District Conference, and who should serve as the church's delegate to General Conference. Lay delegates from chartered churches attend General Conference as voting delegates; lay delegates from study groups attend as observer (voice, no vote). (There is currently discussion on extending voting rights to study groups.)

The local Lay Delegate is responsible for sharing information about the Fellowship and the District with the local congregation. It is the responsibility of the local church to financially support their delegate's attendance at required meetings.



What else happens at a District Conference?

Program: Part of every District Conference is devoted to a thematic program that may include workshops, presentations, sharing and planning. Recent program themes have included Christian Social Action, Racism, Women's and Men's Concerns, Children.

Women's/Men's Sharing: Each District conference provides a time for men's and women's sharing. This has proven to be an important time for strengthening community among women and among men, addressing issues and providing support.

Worship: The worship services on Friday and Saturday night offer an opportunity for singing, prayer, preaching, and sharing of communion with people from all over the District. Often a District Choir is assembled and sings at the Saturday night worship.

Meals: Included in the registration, the host church prepares meals for conference participants, offering a relaxed time for fellowship.

Housing: Members and friends of the host church open their doors to conference participants, offering beds, couches, or floor space. Every effort is made to accommodate preference of smoking/non-smoking, children, handicap.

What of the future of the District?

As UFMCC grows, the District is becoming an increasingly important part of the decision-making and outreach of the church. The District will bear increased responsibility for the approval and care of new churches. There is discussion about District Coordinators serving as Elders, providing for geographic representation and more accessible and accountability.

The District represents a specific region of concern, mission and fellowship, large enough to engage in outreach beyond the limitations of the local church, yet directly representative of the local congregation, providing guidance and assistance. The District serves as a vehicle for carrying out the goals and policies of the General Conference, as well as a vehicle for input to the General Conference. The District is both servant and leader, acting as a steward of resources that may only be available to local churches on a regional level.



So... should I go to District Conference?

Yes!, if you're interested in--

- * meeting people from all over the District
- * learning more about the Fellowship and District, and having a say in that
- * sharing in program and worship
- * sharing in the life of the church beyond the local congregation



THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Northeast District Conference

On Racism

October 23-25, 1981

New York City

Program

Friday, October 23

- 7:00pm Registration at St. John's in the Village (see map on other side). If you arrive before 7:00pm, come to MCC New York's office at 208 West 13th Street, at Seventh Avenue. Note: Call us if you will be arriving after midnight at 929-9116. There will be no way to contact us after midnight without prior arrangement.
- 9:00pm Worship Service (at St. John's in the Village)
- 10:00pm Board of Home Missions

Saturday, October 24

- 8:00am Light Breakfast (at St. John's in the Village)
- 9:00-12:30 Bible Study on Racism: Please read beforehand, if you can, Exodus 1-5, with special attention to Exodus 1: 6-22, 2: 11-15, 3: 7-19, and 5: 1-23. Please note that the program will begin promptly at 9:00am. Please be on time.
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch (The Liturgy Planning Group will meet at this time. All are welcome.)
- 1:30-3:00 Meditation on Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Please be on time to this important follow-up to the morning program.
- 3:00-4:30 Lay Concerns/ Clergy and Worship Coordinators
- 4:30-6:00 Women's Concerns/ Men's Concerns
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:00 Deacons/ Student Clergy
- 8:30 Church Reports
- Worship Service: Chet Jones, MCC New Haven, preaching

Sunday, October 25

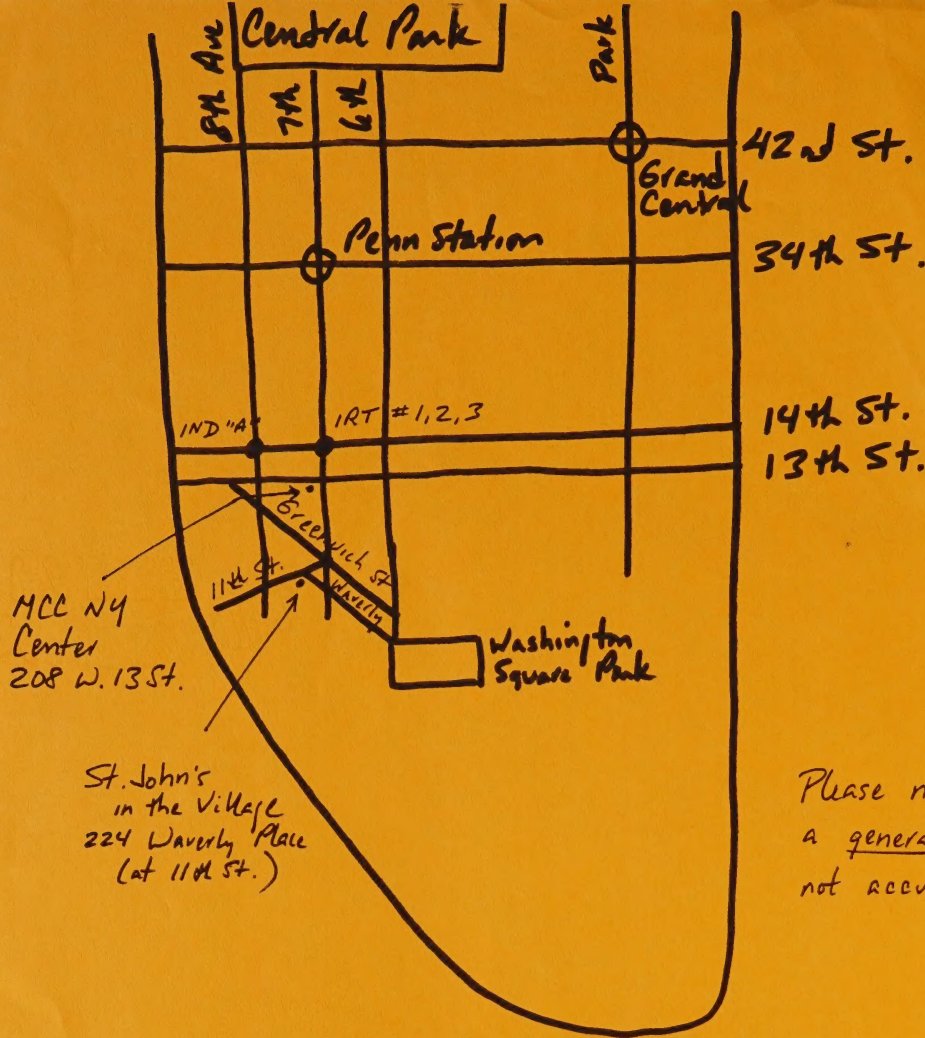
- 9:00 Coffee and such
- 9:30 Business Meeting: to be held third floor of MCC New York's Center, 208 West 13th Street. Please ring bell marked "MCC"

All events for Friday and Saturday are scheduled to take place at St. John's in the Village, an Episcopal church located in Greenwich Village, 224 Waverly Place, at the corner of 11th Street and Waverly Place, just a block west of Seventh Avenue.

Note: If you ask for directions to this church, you should know there are many "St. John's". Please sure to specify "St. John's in the Village" and say it's a block west of Seventh Avenue on 11th Street. It's in a very winding part of the Village; if you get lost, work your way back to Seventh Avenue and find 11th Street. If you are driving, 11th Street is one-way toward Seventh Avenue; you'll need to go a blk south on Seventh Avenue and loop back.

Sunday's meeting will be at MCC New York's Center, 208 West 13th Street, just west of Seventh Avenue. This is the former Food and Maritime Trade High School. Please ring the bell marked "MCC".

MAP ON BACK



Subways:

From Grand Central (Park Ave and East 42nd Street):

Shuttle to Times Square, take IRT #1,2 or 3 downtown to 14th Street

From Penn Station (Seventh Avenue and West 34th Street)

Take IRT #1,2 or 3 downtown to 14th Street

To get to St. John's in the Village: walk south on Seventh Avenue to 11th Street; go one block west (right) on 11th Street to the corner of 11th Street and Waverly Place.

To get to MCC New York's Center: Find the corner of West 13th Street and Seventh Avenue; head west just a bit to 208 West 13th Street. It is an old red former Food and Maritime Trade High School. Ring bell marked "MCC".

Phone Numbers: St John's in the Village 929-9116 (only between 7:00pm and midnight on Friday, and Saturday 8:00am til 10:00pm)
MCC New York: 242-1212

THIS IS OUR FIRST ISSUE OF *LAITY* MAGAZINE, a newsletter of the Northeast District. It was voted into being by the laypeople of the Boston district conference in May 1978 and ratified by the business meeting. *LAITY* is a publication that will keep us informed of news and ideas from our church bodies and of developments at the Board of Home Missions meetings as well as for the discussion of important lay issues in the Fellowship. It is intended to reach every layperson in our district; write *LAITY* if you need more copies. There is no charge.

LAITY

MAGAZINE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT
IN THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF MCC

Word is out about the fantastic district conference we had last May, our first lay conference! District Lay Reps from around the Fellowship are studying the kind of groundwork we're doing here to see if they can apply it to their own areas. If you missed that conference, you missed one of the best-attended conferences we'd had in a long time, even when we were twice the size as the Old Northeast District! All the planning for it was done by the people of the district who, via a couple different questionnaires sent to each congregation, suggested and exchanged and shaped ideas about what they'd really like to see at a district conference.

One thing we said was tht we'd like more and more varied worship services. So we had three: Friday night was a quiet, informal service by the Boston church in which we served each other communion. Saturday morning Alph & Omega woke evrybody up with a tambourine-cracking celebration of gospel singing and moving personal testimony. Saturday night the Rev. Hose Mojica led us in a joyful and dignified liturgy. It was MCC-Hispana's first service for the district and was very beautiful. To Hispana and A&O and Boston we all send again our thanks for some of the most spiritfilled worship services we'd ever experienced as a district. They really made us feel like a family-of-God reunion!

We ARE re-discovering our 'family-sense' here in the Northeast. The morning seminar of the conference was "The Human Church" which explored that 'family' — our common history as laypeople and our coming together as MCC. The seminar included interesting and agitated group discussion that could have continued much longer than was possible. "Human Church" will be repeated for individual congregations like MCC-N.Y. and even for the Great Lakes District Conference in October. If you think your church would benefit from the seminar, see Jean Gralley (Northeast lay rep).

The afternoon session of the conference investigated 'Inreach' and 'Outreach' programs laypeople in various churches maintain. For the 'Inreach' section, Jay Deacon of Hartford

talked about developing effective church publications while Marge Ragona of Providence reenacted her church's Operation Resurrection program, a system by which a congregation can map its future as a church in its community. In the 'Outreach' portion Ed Hougen explained the social activism MCC is engaged in in Boston and Bill Smith of Brooklyn talked about our lay-mobilized prison ministry program.

A valid criticism of the afternoon session was that despite the fact that all these programs were lay-sustained, only ministers presented them, except for Bill Smith. In the planning of the conference, churches with these programs were informed that the focus was on *laypeople* and their presentations should include, but preferably be led by those people. Let's hope by our next lay conference two things will have happened: that we have MORE lay leadership to take up the reins and that, secondly, our ministers take that leadership seriously — seriously seeking it and seriously fostering it.

One thing our first district conference on the laity really made clear was that, yes, we are a family but nobody wants to be fixated in 'parent' and 'children' roles. Laypeople are Christians who want to come to maturity. We have ideas and energy and abilities to share in important ways — not just as people who 'belong to' a church, but as people who *are* the church.

→ → → → → → → *IMPORTANT CHANGES* ← ← ← ← ← ← ← ←

These important innovations were offered by the laypeople at their first Office of Lay Concerns meeting and accepted by the district, effective immediately;

**Membership in any mission or church in the Northeast district includes the privilege to speak at district business meetings.*

Previously only ministers and the one or two lay delegates from each church could speak. This must require a time limit because it could involve so many more people in district discussions; so that limit will be decided by the Chair. Because of this new resolution, people who put so much time and energy and prayer in the church can now address issues they feel important. It also recognizes that the lay delegates of our churches often can't /don't express the various views of their congregations. As before, only delegates can vote. But they will have heard some of their people speak to issues before they do.

**All business meeting minutes will be available to everyone.*

Write our district clerk, Bruce Gerig (c/o A&O, 50 Monroe Pl, Brooklyn 11201) for some of the most thorough and *interesting* minutes you'll ever read. Bruce quotes whole discussions to give you a real gist of what was going on. Records of both the business meeting and our first Lay Concerns meeting are available free of charge. (Previously available only to clergy and delegates.)

This offer good every district conference from now on!

**Publication of a Northeast District Publication will be available to every layperson in the district.*

It will be published quarterly and the district will underwrite the cost of its printing and mailing. (Here it is!)

Also recommended by the laypeople:

**CONGREGATIONAL FORUMS be held periodically in the local churches. These are informal, non-business meetings of each church family in which matters of concern can be openly discussed.*

**That there be a district SPIRITUAL RENEWAL conference at least once a year 'with the aim of giving our members a special opportunity to share an intensified sense of God's presence in their lives'. This district has never had a spiritual renewal conference. When the pastor of MCC-Providence spoke up and said her church would "accept the laity's challenge" and host our next conference as a spiritual renewal conference, there was an immediate ovation! This conference will be in Providence, Rhode Island, October 20th weekend. We asked for it — Don't miss it!!*

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT:

MCC SYRACUSE had an interesting summer. MCCers there took off for Canada and spent a week at 'Unicamp' which featured the theme 'Living as a Gay Person Today'. Men and women from all over shared in numerous workshops, swimming, hiking, sunbathing and frolicking in the (you guessed it) Lavender Falls.....SYRACUSE also had Rev. Betty Schiess, Episcopal priest, preach and consecrate at a special July service commemorating the fourth anniversary of the ordination of women.....MCC BOSTON has been busy rallying support for candidates favorable to gay rights in our recent primary. After a couple hard months canvassing districts, dialing thousands of phone numbers and distributing information at polling places, the Boston troops are proud of their successful ouster of Homophobic D.A. Garrett Byrne.....Do you know that there are people visiting us at district conferences from places like NEW HAVEN, CT. (where we have a study group) and ELMIRA, NEW YORK? If you see someone you don't know at conference, be sure to say hello and get acquainted; our family's getting bigger all the time!.....MCC PROVIDENCE: three members and several children of the church suffered the destruction of their apartments in a recent fire. The church has been providing food and clothing and a place to stay until they can find new homes.... July 9th MCC WORCESTER had a beautiful service installing Rev. Shelley Hamilton as their new pastor. The NEW YORK CHOIR was on hand as well as a crowd representative from all over the district that overflowed the chapel. What made the service *particularly* noteworthy was the fact that Shelley was installed entirely by laypeople! The lay representative of the district was asked to stand in for the district coordinator and the actual installation was conducted by her own Board of Directors, with several 'impromptu' speeches and celebrations from lay and clergy people, alike. It was our first 'lay-officiated' installation and — as they say — a *great* time was had by all!

FROM THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS — — —

The predominant topic of discussion at the May meeting was requirements for chartering, in anticipation of Providence's and A&O's petitions for chartered church status next district conference. Alpha & Omega of Brooklyn has been a mission for two years. MCC Providence was once a chartered church but, during a difficult period, a former pastor voluntarily returned its charter and Providence has been working a year towards regaining it.

The difficulty with chartering or not chartering a church is the temptation to take it as a value judgement. Actually, chartering has little to do with a church's effectiveness or its spiritual power. It has everything to do with measuring up to certain cut-and-dried, organizational requirements. Fellowship bylaws require at least 35 members and a demonstrated ability to support a pastor. Unfortunately, we have chartered churches in this Fellowship that might not be spiritually alive or even effective. We have missions and study groups that are tremendously empowered and highly visible in their communities. Our organizational status (study group, mission, chartered church) is not an indication of our spirit; for "the spirit blows where it will" and any of our church families may find itself bereft of it for a period of time. And just as a church's charter would, of course, not be involuntarily *revoked* for this lapse, neither can it be *granted* for vitality because, as the Fellowship currently defines it, chartering is strictly an organizational measuring stick.

Without question, Alpha&Omega and MCC Providence are exceptionally vital church bodies in our district. What the Board of Home Missions must decide on October 6th is whether they are ready to be chartered. The three members of this Board (Rev. Ed Hougen, Rev. Gil Lincoln and myself) will earnestly seek God's will for this district; a positive vote on either petition must be a unanimous vote.

I'll be reporting to you at district conference about the outcome and the background of our vote.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR LAY REPS ARE?

Alpha & Omega: Lupe Martinez	MCC Hispana: Andy Fernandez
MCC Hartford: Bob Marche	MCC Providence: Sally Gabb
MCC Worcester: Ken Barr	MCC Boston: Bobby Stevens
MCC Syracuse: Henry Yokel	MCC New York: Ellen Pollack

Our district lay representative is Jean Gralley who can be reached at 91 Maple Place, Dedham, MA 02026 (617) 329-9423 . She is responsible for this newsletter and welcomes your comments and contributions to it.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MCC-BOSTON

APRIL 26, 1981, 3pm, OLD WEST CHURCH

AGENDA: Minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting

Clerk's Report

Deacon's Report

Deaf Ministries Report

Fellowship Report

Institutional Ministries Report

Lay Delegate's Report

Social Action Committee Report

Worship Coordinator's Report

Treasurer's Report

Election of three Vestrypersons (two 1-1/2 year terms &
one 2-1/2 year terms)

Election of Lay Delegate and Alternate

Election of Pastor

Possible Budget Revision

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Presentation of agenda
- ✓3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
- ✓4. Co-District Coordinators' Reports
- ✓5. Assistant District Coordinator's Report
- ✓6. Treasurer's Report
- ✓7. Consideration of Budget for Fiscal Year 1982
- ✓8. Lay Concerns Report

not given 10. Race Relations Report

✓4 10. Election of District Co-Coordinator GEO. HEDEKNOTT

✓5 11. Election of Clerk - CLYDE PROCHE

✓12. ~~Decision on date and location of Spring NE District Conference~~

Boston

✗ 13. Old business

✓14. New Business (as time permits)

Themes of Confs.
Scheduling -

15. Resolutions

week after E. Min.
Conf.

16. Adjournment

Roch.: April 30, May 1-2 (Ray Perry)

Boston: 3rd week day

21, 22, 23

N.Y. Women's Retreat - May 1-2

Chit -
Portland, Bklyn, Phila.

Dist. R.R. Commission -
coop. = Fellowship R.R. Comm.

Elect Rene McCoy - Funds to go to Comm.

Planning for Conferences - Themes

3rd Wed week + Gay Asian Conf.

Regional + local Confs. on Racism

100⁰⁰ mo. (any design. offerings subtracted from that amount.) Race relations offerings to be sent to Dist - not to Fellowship.

No money budgeted for Race Rel. use 500⁰⁰ (or part) for her to get there.

Suggestions
Urban Ministry ^{Deaton's Workshop}

Meeting Emergency Needs -

Retreat

Play

National - Intern. themes

Controversial - choice - AB.

Sexuality ^{Man. Bay} ^{S+M Pornog.}

Nurturance. Healing

Music, Movement, Dance

Prayer, Spirituality, Theology, University

Eco, Justice, Class Issues

Doct. Statement ^{FFO}

1. Urban (6)

2. Play (Gay) (Providence) (16) ✓

3. Eco, class (May Boston) (19) ✓

4. M/B (7)

5. Healing (13) ✓

6. Prayer (Feb - (14) ✓

7. FFO (10)

FFO
Doct. Statement

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

LAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 19, 1982
9 pm

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us praise God for God's love endures forever.

DECLARE IT EVERYONE EVERYWHERE: GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

God is with us. We have no fear, for what can anyone do to us?

GOD IS WITH US. LET US HAVE NO FEAR. GOD IS OUR HELPER, OUR COMFORT AND OUR REFUGE.

Praise be to God. We are God's children. WE SHALL LIVE FOREVER IN GOD'S LOVE... AS GOD'S CHILDREN. PRAISE BE TO GOD.

* OPENING HYMN "Here We Are" #5 Alt hymnal
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DEAR GOD, YOU HAVE BROUGHT US TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE THAT YOU HAVE BREATHED INTO US. ALL TOO OFTEN WE FORGET TO REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER OR WE FAIL TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER. WE CONFESS OUR LACK OF TOLERANCE FOR EACH OTHERS GIFTS AND OUR LACK OF TRUST IN YOU. WE BECOME IMPATIENT AND ANGRY. LOVING PARENT, FORGIVE US OUR LACK OF UNITY AND BIND US TOGETHER AS YOUR CHILDREN WHO REACH OUT TO OTHERS WITH LOVE.

SILENCE AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* THE GLORIA

GLORY BE TO THE ONE GOD, AND TO THE CHRIST AND TO THE HOLY GHOST. AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE. WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN. AMEN.

FIRST LESSON Galatians 3:23-29

* SECOND LESSON John 1:1-18

* HYMN "The Ultimate Struggle" #44 alt. hymnal

MEDITATION Cecily Broderick

* HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians" #1 alt hymnal

SHARED CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING (As the offering is collected we shall sing,)

THE COMMUNION HYMN "Many Gifts, One Spirit"
#19 alt hymnal

* denotes congregation please stand

* THE DOXOLOGY

PRAISE GOD THE SOURCE OF ALL WE KNOW. PRAISE
JESUS CHRIST IN WHOM WE GROW. ALLELUIA.
ALLELUIA. PRAISE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVE,
THAT WE IN LOVE WITH GOD MAY LIVE. ALLELUIA.
ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA.

* THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord is with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Let us give thanks to the living God.

IT IS RIGHT AND JUST SO TO DO.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR GOD IN HEAVEN, HOLY BE YOUR NAME. YOUR
DOMAIN COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT
IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE
WHO SIN AGAINST US. DO NOT BRING US TO THE TEST,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THE DOMAIN, AND
THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS, NOW AND
FOREVER. AMEN.

INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Please come and share God's table with us...

It is open to all. Come alone with a friend
or a group of friends. If you prefer grape-
juice is available upon request. Know that
you are welcome to this table of love.

CLOSING PRAYER

* CLOSING HYMN "Let There be Peace on Earth"

Alternative Hymnal #22

* THE BENEDICTION

* THE GREETING OF PEACE.

We sincerely hope that you get a good nights
rest, wherever you sleep tonight. We also
hope that you find us a friendly and hospitable
community. Enjoy Hartford!

NORTHEAST DISTRICT - UFMCC

Financial Statement

For the Period 5-16-82 to 10-15-82

Cash Balance As Of 5-16-82: \$ 1,867.44

INCOME:

Income from Tithes	\$1483.02
Income from Conference	251.87
Designated Conference Offering, (OxFam)	117.94
Designated Offerings, (Mile of Pennies for Worc.)	
from Albany	80.00
from Portland	46.00
from Providence	24.87

Total Income 2,003.70

EXPENSE:

Travel	\$757.80
Telephone	182.57
Lay Concerns	19.72
Oxfam (Designated)	117.94
MCC Worcester (Designated)	150.87
Escrow Disbursements	850.00

Total Expense 2,078.90

Cash Balance As Of 10-15-82 \$ 1,792.24

BALANCE BY FUNDS

Working	\$ 767.57
Reserve for General Conference	400.00
Escrow	475.62
Women's Task Force	149.05
Designated	.00
	<u>\$1,792.24</u>

TITHES NOT RECIEVED BY 10-15-82

MCC Boston: May, June, July, August, September

MCC Brooklyn: May, June July, August, September

MCC Albany: September

MCC Harlem: September

*MCC Rochester: August, September

MCC Springfield: May, June, July, August, September

*Recieved letter explaining late tithes



UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

LAY SERVICE LED BY CHILDREN

District Conference
October, 1982
Providence, R.I.

Friday Evening

"ALL GOD'S CHILDREN!"

LAY SERVICE LED BY CHILDREN

Order of Worship

Singspiration

Billy Mencer, Morning Star MCC

- 1- "The Seven Choruses."
- 2- "Jesus Loves the Little Children."
- 3- "Jesus Loves Me."
- 4- "Joy in My Heart."

Welcome

Rev. George S. McDermott, Pastor, MCC - Providence

Moment of Silent Meditation

Lighting of Altar Candles

Call to Worship: *"Litany of Thanksgiving for the Gift of Children."*

L: *Let us give thanks for Christ's revelation to us of God's love for children.*

P: *Blessed be God, eternal Friend of children.*

L: *For God's tender compassion towards children; for God's just anger towards those who do them wrong; for the deep love drawing all people to God; for the message of the nearness we have to the Creator of all,*

P: *Blessed be God, eternal Friend of children.*

L: *For the beauty of children and their joy in beautiful things; for the joy and light children bring into the world,*

P: *Blessed be God, eternal Friend of children.*

L: *As we give thanks for the infinite value of children, let us pray for parents and all of us through whom children receive their first thoughts of God. That we may have a deepened sense of the glory of God, and may honor God's presence, that the children may be won for Jesus Christ,*

P: *Hear us, our God.*

L: *That with patience we may foster in children a love of goodness, truth, and beauty,*

P: *Hear us, our God.*

L: *That by the Spirit we may inspire children to think of Christ as ever near; to know Christ's standard as our standard, Christ's cause as our cause, Christ as our Leader, and Hero, and Redeemer,*

P: *Hear us, our God.*

Hymn of Praise: *"Revive Us, Again."*

Prayer of Assurance -- Lord's Prayer

L: *Dear God, I want to try again to turn over a new leaf. I am truly ashamed of many things I have done to hurt You and others. I want to remember that You forgive me through Jesus Christ. Help me to be humble. Give me Your hand and lead me in a new life of trust and hope in You. For I know you hear me and I can say with joy the prayer Jesus taught us:*

P: *Our Creator, ...*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-2, 6-9.

"Then a leaf will grow from the tree of Jesse, and a branch will grow from his roots. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him, a Spirit of good judgment and understanding, a Spirit of force and power, a Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Then the wolf will live with the sheep, and the lion will lie down with the goats; the calf and the young tiger will grow up together, and a little child will lead them; the cow and the bear will be friends, and their children will play together. The lion will eat straw like cows; the baby will play over the snake's hole, and the child will dance over the snake's nest. They will not hurt or destroy in my holy mountain; as the water fills the sea, the world will be filled with knowing God."

Gospel: Luke 18: 15-17.

"Once when some mothers brought their little children to Jesus so He could put His hands on them and bless them, His disciples shooed them away. But Jesus didn't like this. 'Let the little children come to me,' He said, 'Don't tell them not to come, for little children are in the kingdom of heaven.' Jesus meant that only those who are humble and loving like little children will ever get into the kingdom. Then He took the children in His arms and placed His hands on them, and blessed them."

Message for Children: Luke 19: 1-10. "The Story of Zacchaeus."

Sermon: THE CHILD IN US.

Phillip Eberle, MCC - Providence

Hymn of Meditation: "The Lord of the Dance."

Worship with Prayers of the People

Response: Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Heal me. Use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me.

Worship with Offerings

Offering to help defray the conference costs for the children.

Doxology: Praise God, the source of all we know.

Praise Jesus Christ and in Him grow.

Praise to the Holy Spirit give

That we in love with God may live. Amen.

Worship at the Lord's Table

Communion Hymn: "Just as I Am."

Consecration

Stephanie Judd, MCC - Providence

The Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Thanksgiving: "Now Our God Is with Us."

Now our God is with us. Let us make thanksgiving for the joy within us living. In this Holy Temple, at this Holy Table, hope and life God will enable. Now we leave and believe that God will restore us for the work before us.

Hymn of Dedication: "Sleep My Child, and Peace Attend Thee."

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

(Greet one another with a sign of the peace of Jesus Christ.)

* * * * *



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GREATER PROVIDENCE

POB 1462

PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02901

Rev. George S. McDermott, Pastor
5 Junction Street, Providence
401-272-9247

Sunday Services - 7:00pm
134 Mathewson Street

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Enclosed are the registration materials for the North East District Conference to be held in Providence, R.I. on October 29 - 31, 1982. The theme of the conference is "ALL GOD'S CHILDREN!"

Our aims in the weekend will be to share and grow in our knowledge and experience of children, gay parents, and "the child within ourselves." We hope to achieve this through discussion and worship together. We also will have time to discuss the business issues of our district, including FFO and GSS reports. District Conference is a time to renew friendships and make new acquaintances from other churches and we hope to see all of you in October.

Children are encouraged to attend this conference and a special "Children's Workshop" will be conducted. No registration charge will be made for the children! (The offering at the Friday evening worship service will be taken to help defray the costs for the children.)

When choosing workshops, please indicate first and second choices. Late registration date is October 11, 1982!

SCEDULE FOR CONFERENCE

FRI., Oct. 29, 1982

Registration -- 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM (Snack will be available)
Worship: Lay Service Led by Children -- 8:00 PM
Board of Home Missions -- 9:15 PM

SAT., Oct. 30, 1982

Breakfast -- 8:00 AM to 9:15 AM
(Worship Service -- 8:45 AM to 9:15 AM)
Workshop Introduction -- 9:15 AM
Workshops -- 9:30 AM to Noon
Lunch -- Noon to 1:00 PM
Workshop -- 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Children's Workshop 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
GSS & FFO Reports -- 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
Women/Men's Sharing -- 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Clergy/Lay Concerns -- 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Student Clergy Mtg. -- 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Deacons Mtg. -- 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Dinner -- 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Choir rehearsal -- 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Church Reports -- 7:30 PM Worship Service -- 8:00 PM
Adult Halloween Gathering after service

SUN., Oct. 31 1982

Breakfast -- 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
Business Meeting -- 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

We look forward with joy and excitement to the opportunity of sharing time and love with you.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. George S. McDermott, for the Committees

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

HOME CHURCH: _____

1. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO ARRIVE? FRI PM ____ EVEN ____ SAT AM ____ PM ____

2. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO LEAVE? _____

3. WILL YOU NEED HOUSING? (IF NO, SKIP TO # 12) YES ____ NO ____

4. DO YOU PREFER TO BE HOUSED WITH: MEN ____ WOMEN ____ NO PREFERENCE ____

5. DO YOU SMOKE? YES ____ NO ____ DO YOU OBJECT TO SMOKING? YES ____ NO ____

6.) WILL YOU HAVE CHILDREN WITH YOU? YES ____ NO ____ HOW MANY? ____

DO YOU OBJECT TO BEING HOUSED WITH CHILDREN? YES ____ NO ____

7. DO YOU OBJECT TO BEING HOUSED WITH PETS? YES ____ NO ____

8. DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY OR MEDICATION NEEDS? (DIABETIC, EPILEPTIC, VEGITARIAN,) SPECIFY:

9. DO YOU HAVE ANY DISABILITIES REQUIRING SPECIAL NEEDS? (WHEELCHAIR, ETC.)

10. DO YOU HAVE ANY ALLERGIES? SPECIFY:

11. COMMENTS: (ADD ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL AID US TO HOUSE YOU BETTER)

12. WORKSHOP CHOICES: (PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICES 1 FOR FIRST, 2 FOR SECOND, 3 FOR THIRD): Ministering to Children ____; Ministering to Gay Parents ____; The Child in Us ____; Legal Issues for Gay Parents ____; Ministering to Gay "Non-children" ____

FEES: \$15.00/ \$7.50 for those with special needs (with signature of Pastor/Worship Coordinator)
Late registration (after Oct. 11) - \$20.00 (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MCC-PROVIDENCE)
(FOR SPECIAL NEEDS) _____

MAIL REGISTRATION TO: Rev. George S. McDermott, Registration, P.O. Box 1462, Providence, R.I. 02901.

FOR INFORMATION: write MCC-Providence, P.O. Box 1462, Providence, R.I. 02901 or telephone (401)-272-9247.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 21-23, 1982

(Time available)

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER H: _____
ADDRESS _____ W: _____
_____ APT. NUMBER _____

Description of House (Example: 3-Story white house, third from corner on left side.)

TYPE OF SPACE AVAILABLE: Bed/Couch _____ FLOOR (Need sleeping bag) _____
Single _____ Double _____

NUMBER OF SPACES AVAILABLE _____

PREFERENCE: Male _____ Female _____ No Preference _____ Smoker _____
Non-Smoker _____ Don't care _____
Couple _____ Single _____ Children _____ No Children _____

TRANSPORTATION: Will supply auto transportation each night. _____
Will need auto transportation each night. _____

*T Directions: Line _____ Stop _____ Bus _____

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: _____

(Please draw simple map on reverse.)

PERSON(S) ASSIGNED _____ CHURCH _____

(If you have already arranged for persons to stay with you, or wish particular persons assigned to you, please put their name(s) on the line marked "Person Assigned.")

* * * * *
Dear Member or Friend of Boston MCC:

We need your help in housing guests during our District Conference. If you are willing and able to help, please fill in the above form and return it to the church (MCC, 131 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA. 02114).

We thank you for your assistance, and hope you and your guest(s) enjoy each other and the conference.

Missy Ragona
Chair
Housing Committee

*T Fares: Train (unless way out) \$.75 Buses: \$.50. Some places will require both train and bus.

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF UFLCC
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA; February 21, 1982

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Presentation of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
4. Co-District Coordinators' Reports
5. Assistant District Coordinator's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Consideration of Budget for Fiscal Year 1982
8. Lay Concerns Report
9. Race Relations Report
10. Election of District Co-Coordinator
11. Election of Clerk
12. ~~Decision on date and location of Spring NE District Conference~~
13. Old business
14. New Business (as time permits)
15. Resolutions
16. Adjournment

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Presentation of agenda
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
4. Co-ordinator's Report
5. Assistant District Co-ordinator's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Consideration of budget for fiscal year 1968
8. Lay Counselor Report
9. Home Visitation Report
10. Election of District Co-ordinator
11. Election of Clerk
12. Motion on the resolution of prayer in district meetings
13. All business
14. New business (as time permits)
15. Benediction
16. Adjournment

DISTRICT CO-COORDINATOR'S REPORT
February 21, 1982

Since the last District Conference, I have visited four of our groups: Rochester, Syracuse, Providence, and Worcester.

Rochester: I attended a lasagna dinner and Christmas carolling evening, that was very well-attended. It was obvious to me that in the short time that it has been open as a Study Group, MCC Rochester has developed a vibrant and active presence in a city with a strong Lesbian and gay community. Although I understand that winter storms have decreased the attendance at services, nonetheless, I am sure that this group has a strong foundation, and that is a definite credit to the fine pastoral skills of Rev. Willie White. I look forward to visiting Rochester again in the spring.

Syracuse: I attended a "Question the District Co-Coordinator" meeting and a potluck supper, and preached at their Fifth Anniversary service. A small group of people stubbornly hang in there, keeping MCC Syracuse alive. They are desperately in need of a pastor, having functioned for the last 18 months with a Worship Coordinator, Dick Nottingham, who has announced his resignation, effective the last Sunday in April. I have been in contact with a number of clergypersons suggested by Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson about moving to Syracuse. At this point, it seems that the most likely candidate will be the Rev. Lynn Guerra, who is presently on staff at MCC Long Beach, CA. I know that you all join with me in praying that they be able to call a pastor in the very near future. In the meantime, the Rev. Renee McCoy has made a suggestion that I think might help: that clergy and student clergy in the District take turns going to Syracuse for a weekend, and share whatever particular gifts and blessings s/he might bring to their ministry with this group. I would be willing to coordinate such a project, if there is an indication of willingness from at least 8 people to travel to Syracuse.

Providence: I preached in Providence the Sunday after Christmas, and felt blessed to be able to worship with this very faithful group. They are indeed blessed to have the stable, mature leadership of the Rev. George McDermott. I was thrilled that my father attended the service, as he had only ~~preached~~ heard me preach once before. Shortly after this visit, my father fell and broke his hip and was hospitalized for a month. George was very kind to visit him regularly, and my father shared with me that George ministered to him in the hospital, far more effectively than his own pastor from the Congregational Church.

Worcester: The Rev. Billie Edwards, who was under consideration to be the interim pastor in Worcester, decided to take a pulpit in Virginia. Connie DiSenzo continues to serve as Worship Coordinator, and it was decided by the congregation to move from mission status to study group status. This seems to be the healthiest move for this group at this time.

Fellowship notes: The GSS Planning and Strategy Meeting, originally scheduled for January, has been rescheduled for June 29-July 2 in Dallas. The Fellowship still operating on an austerity budget, cannot fund this meeting. It is up to each district to send their District Coordinator(s) and Lay Representative to Dallas, where the Fellowship will provide lodging and one meal a day. For those districts that are further away, and less ~~far~~ financially well off, there are a few districts who are willing to help out.

Rev. Elder Jean White's father died last week, following only three months after her mother's death. Please keep her in your prayers.

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson and Elder Michael Mank are developing an Economic Development program, to help the Fellowship budget through investments. I am sure that

Since the last District Conference, I have visited four of our younger Rochester, Syracuse, and Rochester.

Rochester: I attended a business dinner and Christmas caroling evening, that was very well-attended. It was obvious to me that in the short time that it has been open as a study group, MCC Rochester has developed a vibrant and active presence in a city with a strong lesbian and gay community. Although I understand that winter weather have hampered the attendance at services, nonetheless, I am sure that this group has a strong foundation, and that is a definite credit to the fine personal skills of Rev. Willie Miller. I look forward to visiting Rochester again in the spring.

Syracuse: I attended a "Question the District Co-ordinators" meeting and a network support, and presented at their fifth anniversary service. A small group of people enthusiastically sang in honor, Kentucky MCC Syracuse alive. They are doing very well in need of a pastor, having requested for one last 15 months with a recently deceased, Dick Hollister, who has requested his replacement, at the last Sunday in April. I have been in contact with a number of the members of the group, by Rev. Ellen Kelly about coming to Syracuse. At this point, it seems that the most likely candidate will be the Rev. Lynn Gorman, who is presently on staff at MCC Long Beach, CA. I know that you will have a very high regard for her ability to call a pastor in the very near future. In the meantime, the Rev. Ellen Kelly has made a suggestion that Hollister's help in that area, and a student clergy in the District take some time as a sponsor for a weekend, and share whatever pastoral, life and leadership they might bring to their ministry with this group. I would be willing to coordinate such a project, if there is an indication of willingness from almost 10 people to travel to Syracuse.

Rochester: I presented in Providence the Sunday after Christmas, and felt blessed to be able to worship with this very faithful group. They are indeed blessed to have two stable, active leadership of the New England Conference. I was thrilled that my father attended the service, as he had only previously heard of them once before. Shortly after this visit, my father fell and broke his hip and was hospitalized for a month. George was very kind to visit him regularly, and my father stated with me that George ministered to him in the hospital, for example, effectively, than his own pastor, from the Congregational Church.

Westchester: Rev. Willie Miller, who was under consideration to be the Westchester in Rochester, decided to take a sabbatical in Virginia. Dennis Higgins continues to serve as Westchester Co-ordinator, and it was decided by the conference to have two interim pastors to study group status. This seems to be the healthiest situation for this group at this time.

Fellowship notes: The New England and District Fellowship, scheduled for January, has been rescheduled for June 23-24 in Dallas. The Fellowship still operates on an extremely budget, cannot run this best of. It is up to each district to send their District Co-ordinators, and any representatives to Dallas, where the Fellowship will provide lodging and one meal a day. For those districts that are further away, and less likely financially well off, there are a few districts who are willing to help out.

Rev. Ellen Kelly's father died last week, following only three months after her mother's death. Please keep her in your prayers.

Rev. Ellen Kelly and Sister Michael Rank are developing an economic development program to help the Fellowship budget through investments. I am sure the

they will keep us informed as to the progress of this program.

In my nine months as District Co-Coordinator, I have been struck by the quality of struggle apparent in our churches. There is a real desire to be effective and alive in each of our communities. Even in our smallest groups, there is a real desire to be the liberating churches that God has called us to be. As I get a firmer grasp on what it means to be a District Co-Coordinator, I look forward to working with whoever is elected this morning to fill Shelley's position. I shall miss Shelley in this role tremendously. She has been a great friend, as well as a genuine inspiration to me. And I greatly respect her journey: I know that you all join with me in wishing her God's greatest blessings as she continues her "trek" and as she continues to challenge each of us to grow and learn as the people of God.

Finally, I consider it a great privilege to serve as Co-Coordinator. At times, it is a bit overwhelming, and my prayers are for continued energy and wisdom in dealing with all of the different situations which arise. Thank you for supporting me and giving me this opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. A. Stephen Pieters

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

BOSTON

May 21-23, 1982

FRIDAY EVENING

7:00 -- Registration- Parlor

8:30 Worship - Sanctuary

You are welcome to use the sanctuary to visit and enjoy old and new friends. Please help yourself to snacks and drinks.

The subway system, the "T" shuts down at 12:30. If you are on a T line for housing, please be aware that you will have to take a taxi after that. If you need to make a bus connection at the end of the T you will have to leave earlier. Ask your host about travel arrangements, please.

SATURDAY

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 --- Introduction to Program
--- Presentation of Areas

10:30 - 12:00 Response Teams
1. World Hunger - Parlor
2. Nuclear Disarmament - Fellowship Hall
3. Central America - Kindergarten

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not return to the Parlor area, as a gay A.A. group will be meeting there. There will be a concert in the Sanctuary during the lunch hour.

1:30 - 2:30 Initial Reports from Response Teams - Fellowship Hall

2:30 --- Response Activities

2:30 - 3:30 Faith, Fellowship & Order Commission Parlor

4:00 - 5:00 Commission on the Laity Sanctuary

4:00 - 5:00 Clergy Sharing Parlor

5:00 - 6:00 Deacons Parlor Student Clergy Kindergarten

6:00 - 7:00 Dinner Fellowship Hall

7:00 - 7:30 Final Report of Response Teams

7:30 - 8:00 Church Reports

8:00 - 9:30 Worship

9:30 -- Women's Sharing

SUNDAY

8:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast Fellowship Hall

9:00 -- Business Meeting

7:00 p.m. Evening Worship

You are welcome to stay and worship with us. MCC Boston is a warm and friendly church, and we welcome your participation in our regular church life.

